

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is characterized by difficulty interacting and communicating with others. Children with ASD also may engage in repetitive behaviors, which could be physical (flapping hands, jumping repetitively) or vocal (repeating videos, making repetitive sounds). Play skills are often immature and repetitive.



Severity varies widely and each child on the spectrum presents with a unique array of symptoms. While all children with ASD present with some challenges in the areas of language and socialization, some may have a little or no spoken language and more challenging behaviors that interfere with learning and daily life.

SOME INDICATORS OF ASD

ASD is often diagnosed between the ages of 18 months and 3 years. Studies indicate that autism is five times more common in boys than girls, with a higher risk if a sibling is diagnosed with autism.

Some indicators of ASD may include:

- avoids eye contact
- doesn't babble/make meaningful gestures by 1 year
- doesn't speak 1 word by 16 months
- doesn't combine 2 words by 2 years of age
- doesn't respond to name
- no interest in playing with peers
- loses language or social skills
- lines up toys or objects excessively
- doesn't point to indicate what he/she wants
- insistence on routines remaining the same

If you have concerns, speak with your child's pediatrician. MKSA is always available to answer questions and discuss available options.

OUR ABA SERVICES FOR ASD

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) focuses on the principles that explain how learning takes place. Through decades of research, the field of behavior analysis has developed many techniques for increasing useful behaviors and reducing those that may cause harm or interfere with learning. ABA uses these techniques and principles to bring about meaningful and positive changes in behavior. Positive reinforcement is one such principle. When a behavior is followed by some sort of incentive or reward, that behavior is more likely to be repeated. ABA therapy sessions often involve one-on-one interaction between the ABA provider and the child. These techniques can be used in structured situations such as the classroom as well as in everyday situations.

OUR ABA TEAM

Our psychologists have PhDs and are licensed by NY State. The Director of Behavioral Services and many of our ABA staff are NYS Licensed Behavior Analysts (LBAs) and Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA). ABA team leaders and providers are all experienced special educators with years of education, training, and practical experience in developing programs, and providing individualized instruction to young children with ASD. This expertise is combined with a genuine concern for families and an understanding of the challenges they face.



MKSA LLC

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NYC Residents: Call the City Help Line at 311
for information on Early Intervention

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Scan the code and join our mailing list!

The Early Intervention Program is a public program funded by New York State, Nassau & Suffolk counties, and the NYC Department of Mental Health, and is for children less than three years of age who have or are suspected of having a developmental delay and/or disability. Eligibility for the EIP can be determined only by State approved evaluators under contract with the municipality. If a child is found eligible for the EIP, all services are identified in collaboration with the family and must be authorized by the municipality. The municipality will arrange for service providers to deliver services authorized by the municipality. All services under the EIP are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to families, but health insurance may be accessed, without affecting your family's benefits. For services provided in community settings that require a fee, the parent is responsible for paying those costs. To access EI services, contact the Nassau County Department of Health at 516-227-8661 or the Suffolk County Department of Health at 631-853-3100. To access EI services within New York City, contact the NYC Help Line at 311. MKSA LLC is an approved provider of Early Intervention services under contract with Nassau county, Suffolk county and New York City. The CPSE program is funded and regulated by the NYS Education Department, county and your local school district for children 3-5. Services are provided at no direct cost to families for children who meet eligibility guidelines.



Evaluations & Services Guide

Keeping kids on track!



**EVALUATIONS AND
THERAPEUTIC SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS**

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GET TO KNOW US

MKSA provides a full range of early childhood and school age services. **Early Intervention** evaluation, educational, therapeutic and support services are available for eligible children and their families throughout Long Island and New York City.



Preschool related services are available in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

MKSA also provides **school age services** in many districts throughout Nassau and Suffolk

counties. Private pay services are available as well.

MKSA's staff and providers have many years of experience working with children with developmental delays and their families.

As one of the largest agencies in the area, MKSA provides a high level of quality services using caring, dedicated professionals. We support each child's developmental potential by providing individualized programs tailored to each child's specific needs.

MKSA'S MISSION

MKSA's mission is to maximize each child's developmental potential by working in cooperation with families, schools and communities. We use a successful combination of therapeutic services, evidence-based interventions, and family involvement to address each child's special needs and provide the support necessary to ensure individual success.

Our goal is to provide prompt, accurate evaluations, effective treatment for children's developmental and educational concerns, and support for families.

WHY CHOOSE MKSA

MKSA and all of our providers have longstanding experience which translates into a large assortment of treatment professionals who address a multitude of developmental and educational needs.



Our agency's special strength comes from our years of experience, our emphasis on advanced training, and our strong sense of personal commitment to each child.

MKSA provides education and training to parents/caregivers so together we can help each child reach his/her individual goals.

Our NYS licensed and certified professional staff includes: Psychologists, Special Educators, Speech Language Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Service Coordinators, Licensed Behavior Analysts and Board Certified Behavior Analysts.

WHEN DOES A CHILD NEED HELP?

By age 4, some of a child's most important learning has already taken place!

All children grow and develop at individual rates, however—***if your child is not doing what other children the same age are doing, if your child has a specific diagnosis, or if you***



simply believe something is not right—you should ask questions... and get answers. Questions can relate to milestones such as walking, talking, playing, eating, behaving and much more.

For older children, MKSA can offer help with issues such as difficulty establishing friendships, behavioral challenges, problems communicating and more.

MKSA can help you make informed decisions about your child's needs, and we can assist in the evaluation process.

EARLY INTERVENTION (EI)

MKSA provides a full range of evaluation, educational, therapeutic and support services under the NYS Early Intervention Program (EIP). **EI services are provided to children under 3 years old** who have a developmental delay in one or more developmental areas such as: **communication** (understanding/using words), **cognitive** (thinking, learning), **physical** (gross/fine motor skills), **social** (relating to others) and **adaptive** (self-help skills).



EI services are provided wherever your child is: your home, day care, or any community center. We also offer services in our onsite clinic. **And there is no out-of-pocket cost for services.**

Our Early Intervention services include the following:

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| -multi-disciplinary evaluations | -speech & language therapy |
| -diagnostic evaluations | |
| -special instruction | -physical therapy |
| -Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) | -occupational therapy |
| -social work | -family training |

At MKSA, we believe in putting the child and the family's needs first.

We understand the important role of families in the life of a child with special needs. While our teachers and therapists work with the child, family members are included in a child's therapy, and every effort is made to accommodate each family's busy schedule.

PRESCHOOL SERVICES

Every NYS school district has a Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE), a program that provides services to children from 3-5 years of age who have, or are at risk of having a developmental disability.

If your child received early intervention services up to age three and may still need special services, MKSA can assist you with transition planning and make a referral to the CPSE. **If your preschool child (age 3-5) did not receive early intervention services but has some developmental delays,** MKSA can help you in completing the referral process.



MKSA provides related services to children 3-5 in Nassau and Suffolk counties who qualify for services.

SCHOOL-AGE SERVICES

Our professionals have extensive experience working with school age children, and are familiar with core curriculum requirements. We supplement staffing needs in public and private school as well as provide home-based services when deemed appropriate. **In School services** (behavior intervention, classroom consultation, positive behavior supports, FBAs/BIPs, special education, speech, PT, OT, resource room), **In Home services** (behavior intervention, parent training, home teaching, speech, PT, OT, counseling, supervision of home programs, program consultation) and **Evaluations** (psychological/Differential Diagnosis of ASD, speech, PT, OT, audiological) are available.

OUR SPECIALTIES

MKSA's specialties include:

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Diagnostic Evaluations
- PROMPT
- Audiology
- Feeding services
- Family training and counseling
- Sensory integration training
- NEURO-Developmental Treatment (NDT)
- Service coordination
- Teaching the visually impaired & hearing impaired

Bilingual services are available in many languages.



OUR PRIVATE PAY OPTION

MKSA provides private therapeutic services when children are not eligible for these services through EI, CPSE or CSE. Contact us for more information.