Dear Interested Family Member,

We are excited that you have shown interest in the Community Development Center’s program – the Children’s Center for Autism. After many years of seeing the rise in children diagnosed with autism within our communities, we are pleased to bring an evidence-based, comprehensive behavior therapy program to families of South Central Middle Tennessee.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Surgeon General, and the National Council on Education, early, intensive behavior therapy is the most researched and proven method of treating children with autism. The Community Development Center is very aware that there are no intensive behavior therapy centers for children with autism in our community, and it is difficult for families to drive hours to obtain needed services for their children. Therefore, after several years of applying for grants, we are finally able to offer an autism therapy center in our local community.

Intensive behavior therapy for children with autism can be very expensive to provide and there is some insurance supports currently within the State of Tennessee to cover these costs. We are a therapy company that utilizes insurance as payor of first resort. We work with our families to determine the medical necessity criteria for ABA therapy for your child, and will work with your insurance company to determine benefit coverage. Due to being one of the only providers in South Central Middle Tennessee we do currently have a referral list. We always recommend that families call the phone number on the back of their insurance card and ask for a list of available providers in their area with hopes that someone may be able to get your child in sooner.

Research states that the lifetime cost to support an individual with autism can be reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention. The Children’s Center for Autism will be providing evidence-based, intensive behavior therapy. Our approach to therapy is modeled after our partner, The Brown Center for Autism, located in Nashville. The Community Development Center wants to partner with you, the family, to help your child realize their full potential in life.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I hope you consider enrolling your child into the Children’s Center for Autism.



Anita Teague

Executive Director, Community Development Center