

ABA is a live or die in our family's mind. Our daughter is 13 years old now. She started when she was 5 but should have started before the age of 2 if we had known about it and its availability. Our daughter began ABA with no words and violent behaviors. We believe had we not found ABA we would have been on a trajectory of an institution setting for her. She has gained skills we had no path in site of how we would get her to achieve them. She is mostly nonverbal still but she has command of her AAC device like a ninja and probably has 800 words at least she knows how to access. She started ABA with no words and no device.

ABA has unlocked our daughter, and she gets to experience life in a completely different way. ABA has enabled her to be the best version of herself. When she gets overwhelmed now and uses some of the coping skills she acquired in ABA therapy, we can still see the ABA therapy at work with her. When people in public are impressed by her methods, we just simply say this is ABA at work in her right now.

We often say as parents that ABA has taught us more than its even taught her which is a lot. It gave us the understanding of how to break things down in small increments, being advocates for her strengths and support her in the best way when she is struggling. Our daughter has autism as well as a micorchromosomal deletion. What we have seen change in her over the years is that she has gone from isolation to inclusion. She no longer runs away from environments. She has a very deep sense of wanting to belong and she has different ways that she adapts herself to be included. This is her empowerment from her ABA therapy.

We believe that society has a huge freight train silently headed its way. It has children like our daughter on it and we believe that her trajectory and place in society is light years ahead of where she would have been without ABA therapy. We believe that ABA therapy changes the fabric of our society and the challenges of society as people like our daughter become adults. It also changes the burden of the healthcare institutions as our daughter is more independent and will require less resources as an adult because of this early intervention and aiding her abilities now. There is only a small window in children's formative years to get these skills to click and let them take these skills with them into adulthood.

We can also attest to the school system resources that are more fitting to our daughter and more inclusive of other programs so that not only is there a place for her, they also have the ability to structure care and programs with her increased skill sets in life.

ABA has been the biggest asset in our daughter's life and our family. ABA extends to our extended family as well. Her cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents have all incorporated little fragments of ABA teaching into their families and also our daughter has a place in family functions where everyone knows how to let her be her and also be in the gang. Priceless.