



2026

FAMILY NAVIGATOR

ABA RESOURCE GUIDE



The Place

for Children
with Autism



Choosing the right therapy provider can feel overwhelming. This Family Navigator is designed to give you a clear picture of what to expect at The Place for Children with Autism and how we support families across Illinois.

You don't have to navigate this journey alone. Our team is here to guide you every step of the way.

WHY SO MANY FAMILIES CHOOSE THE PLACE:



- Play-based learning- helps children discover their strengths and build confidence
- Personalized, evidence-based therapy plans designed around your child's unique goals
- 1:1 support and small-group experiences like art, music, movement, and social play
- Skills that translate to real life, helping children learn, connect, and thrive at home, school, and beyond

OUR MISSION AND VALUES



At The Place for Children with Autism, our goal is simple:

To deliver high-quality, child-centered ABA therapy in a caring, school-like setting where children can learn, grow, and thrive.

We Believe In:

- Quality care that makes a difference. We combine proven ABA practices with compassionate support and expert clinical guidance.
- The power of connection. Children grow through friendship, play, and shared experiences in our school-like setting.
- Families as partners. We equip caregivers with tools and training to support progress at home and beyond.
- Excellence with heart. Our team is built on compassion, integrity, and a commitment to continuous learning and measurable outcomes.



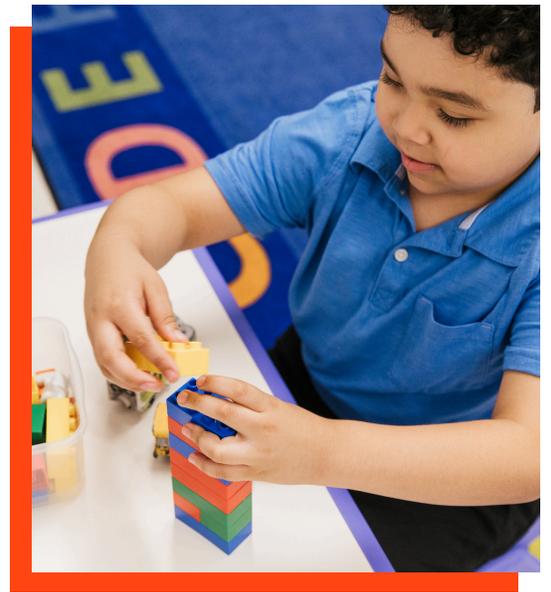
ABOUT US

At The Place for Children with Autism, we provide play-based ABA therapy for children ages 2–9 across 18 locations throughout Illinois, specializing in early intervention and individualized care.

Through our Autism Evaluation Center at The Place, we also offer diagnostic evaluations and re-evaluations for families, helping reduce the long wait times many families face when seeking answers and support.

We also offer speech therapy through The Place for Speech and collaborate with outside specialists to support each child's full developmental journey.

Our After School Program, available in Jefferson Park, Elgin, and Lake in the Hills, extends learning and skill-building opportunities for children up to age 10.



THE PLACE PROMISE:

Our commitment to providing compassionate care, clinical excellence, and meaningful progress for every child and family we serve.

- A Warm Welcome
- Personalized Care
- Clear Communication
- Collaborative Expertise
- Celebrating Progress
- Skills for Real Life
- A Supportive Community



OUR SPACES

Every part of our centers is intentionally designed to help children feel safe, engaged, and ready to learn. From calming sensory areas to active play spaces, our environments support meaningful therapy, exploration, and growth.

Inside our centers, you'll find:

- Sensory-Friendly Spaces for comfort, regulation, and focus
- Safe & Secure Environments designed with children's safety in mind
- Therapeutic Play Areas that build social, motor, and communication skills
- Indoor Sensory Gyms for movement, coordination, and active learning
- Nutrition & Feeding Areas supporting sensory and dietary needs
- Flexible Therapy Rooms for both 1:1 and small-group sessions
- Outdoor Learning Spaces in Elgin and Lake in the Hills



OUR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

- Our clinicians complete rigorous training and uphold the BACB® Code of Ethics, ensuring the highest standards of care.
- The Place for Children with Autism is a Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE)–accredited provider and has been recognized as a Top 50 Healthcare Provider in the United States by the International Forum on Advancements in Healthcare.



DAILY ROUTINES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At The Place for Children with Autism, each child's day is thoughtfully structured to create meaningful opportunities for learning, play, and growth through high-quality ABA therapy. Our days include a blend of skill-building activities, play, social interaction, and guided support from our clinical team.

Please note: During the intake process, our clinical team will assess your child's strengths, needs, and goals to determine whether a one-session or two-session therapy day is recommended.



DAILY SCHEDULE

SESSION 1: 8–11:30 AM
PLAY THERAPY, GROSS MOTOR, CIRCLE TIME, SENSORY GYM

LUNCH, SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS, & GROUP ACTIVITIES: 11:30– 1 PM
**NAPTIME (IF APPLICABLE)*

SESSION 2: 1–4:30 PM
PLAY THERAPY, GROSS MOTOR, CIRCLE TIME, SENSORY GYM



OUR ASSESSMENT PROCESS & WHY IT'S TAILORED TO YOUR CHILD:

UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD

- OUR BCBA-LED EVALUATION LOOKS AT COMMUNICATION, PLAY, SOCIAL SKILLS, AND LEARNING READINESS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD'S UNIQUE STRENGTHS AND NEEDS.

OBSERVE THROUGH PLAY

- USING ENGAGING, PLAY-BASED ACTIVITIES, OUR TEAM OBSERVES HOW YOUR CHILD NATURALLY COMMUNICATES, INTERACTS, AND LEARNS IN A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT.

PERSONALIZE THE PLAN

- WE COMBINE CLINICAL INSIGHT AND FAMILY INPUT TO BUILD A CUSTOMIZED THERAPY PLAN FOCUSED ON COMMUNICATION, INDEPENDENCE, SOCIAL SKILLS, AND SCHOOL READINESS.



HOW WE PARTNER WITH YOU: FROM HOME TO SCHOOL AND BEYOND



- FAMILY PARTNERSHIP
- CONNECTED SUPPORT & CARE
- DATA-DRIVEN PROGRESS
- COMMUNICATION & CELEBRATION
- SKILLS FOR LIFE
- COLLABORATIVE CONNECTIONS



YOUR SUPPORT TEAM

At The Place, your child is supported by a dedicated team working together to help them grow, learn, and succeed.

Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs)

Your child's daily therapy providers who work one-on-one with them through play, encouragement, and positive reinforcement.

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

The clinician who designs your child's individualized therapy plan, tracks progress, and partners with you to set meaningful goals.

Clinical Lead Supervisor (CLS)

A clinical leader who supports therapists, ensures quality care, and helps guide your child's progress.

Operations Supervisor (OS)

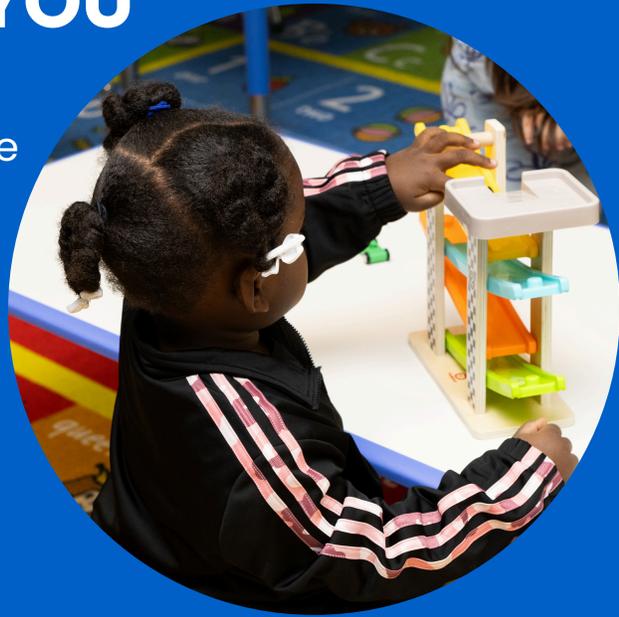
The center leader who helps ensure scheduling, communication, and the overall experience for your family runs smoothly.



OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU

You are your child's biggest advocate, and we're here to support you. At The Place for Children with Autism, we work in collaboration with caregivers to ensure every therapy plan feels personalized, respectful, and aligned with your goals.

You'll have access to your child's progress, regular communication with their care team, and a say in every decision. We honor your voice and we know that therapy works best when we work together.



WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR THE PLACE. MY CHILD MADE INCREDIBLE PROGRESS WHILE ATTENDING THEIR PROGRAM. STAFF IS AMAZING AND SO INCREDIBLY CARING.
-KATHRINA

MY SON IS THRIVING! THE PLACE HAS HELPED MY SON SO MUCH! WHEN HE STARTED HE WAS NON-VERBAL. NOW HE IS SAYING FULL SENTENCES.

-JOSIE



"OUR DAUGHTER RECEIVED ABA THERAPY AT THE PLACE, AND WE COULDN'T BE HAPPIER WITH HER PROGRESS. SHE HAS TRULY THRIVED THANKS TO THE PERSONALIZED TREATMENT PLANS AND THE INCREDIBLE CARE FROM HER ENTIRE TEAM."

-ALICE



YOUR FIRST DAY AT THE PLACE

We're so excited to welcome your family to The Place for Children with Autism! Your child's first day marks the start of a journey toward growth, connection, and confidence. Our team will be by your side every step of the way—answering questions, easing transitions, and celebrating every milestone.



WHAT TO BRING:

1. Change of clothes (labeled with your child's name)
2. Pair of Shoes (specifically in-clinic shoes)
3. Diapers, wipes, or pull-ups (if applicable)
4. Comfort item (personal item or blanket that helps them feel safe)
5. Snack and lunch
6. Communication device (if your child uses one)
7. Any required paperwork (we'll confirm before your first day)