

This Issue

Knapp Center— 5 year Anniversary	1
ABA Outreach Program	2
Summer Camps 2015—	3
Initial Steps Day Treatment Pro- gram	4
Teen S.T.E.P.S. Outreach Pro- gram	5
International & Remote Outreach Program	6
ABA Internship Program	7
Staff Education & Training	8
Looking Back Over the Past 5 Years	9
Our Staff	10

5 YEAR COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

The Knapp Center for Childhood Development is celebrating it's 5 year anniversary. The Center originally opened in October, 2010. We have a lot to celebrate since our inception. We are proud to have opened the only fully evidenced based ABA program, in our tri-county area. Over the 5 years, we have been successful in creating and implementing multiple programs to meet the needs of children with varying abilities. Many staff worked together to contribute to our success. We now have 11 Board Certified Behavior Analysts, and 36 Behavior Technicians treating the 75 plus patients we serve on a weekly basis.

As our staff and programs grew, so did our space. More recently, in August 2015, we expanded our on-site programs to include adding 7 additional therapy areas in our toddler program, to allow approximately 10 additional children to receive treatment on-site. The expansion also included adding a gross motor area, to include climbing toys, swings, pretend play, and an area to work on gross motor games within a group setting. The gross motor area will enable us to teach the children various gross motor skills, which would approximate gym time or recess in the typical school environment. Data will be collected while children work on various learning readiness, gross motor, socialization, and communication skills; targeting the Early Learning Standards. The August expansion also included adding space for 6 teens to receive treatment on-site throughout the day, with a focus on teaching adaptive skills, emotional regulation and expected behaviors.



This edition of our newsletter will summarize the programs we created over the past 5 years, and the success of each program. Thank you for being a part of our journey and allowing us to be part of yours!

ABA Outreach Program

Chief Clinical Coordinator of Treatment Programs: Carrie Snyder M.S., BCBA, COBA



Our ABA Outreach Program was the 1st treatment program developed at the Knapp Center. The ABA Outreach Program began its journey in January 2011, and has grown to service over 70 patients on a weekly basis, in Northeast Ohio and Western PA.

Our children have had much success transitioning back to school this year! We applaud the parents, teachers, school administrators and Behavior Technicians that have worked to coordinate and develop treatment plans for this school year. We plan to continue to collaborate with local public and private schools, in order to provide ABA support in an environment that allows the children to participate in academic and social activities with their peers. We also work with children who are homeschooled, in order to assist their parents in implementing their homeschool curriculum, and to support the child during social outings. The Behavior Technician works actively to help the child generalize new skills across various situations, that will promote their academic and social success! Finally, we continue to offer after-school ABA programs to many children in their homes.



Summer Camps 2015

Coordinator: Cecilia Maderitz-Stacchiotti M.S., BCBA, COBA

This was our 4th successful year for our Summer Camp Program! In addition to maintaining our partnerships with the YMCA in Boardman, Boardman Park, the JCC in Youngstown, and the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, we added a 5th site! This year, we partnered with the YMCA in Louisville. At camp, every child's Knapp Center ABA Curriculum Program was individualized to address social skills, pragmatic language, emotional and behavioral needs. These skills were addressed in the natural environment with typically-developing peers. We had a total of 16 campers between the 5 camp sites. All children made significant progress, and new friendships were made! We also had a very high overall parent satisfaction rate at 98%!



Initial Steps Infant & Toddler Day Treatment Program

Coordinator: Amy Lockney M.S., BCBA, COBA

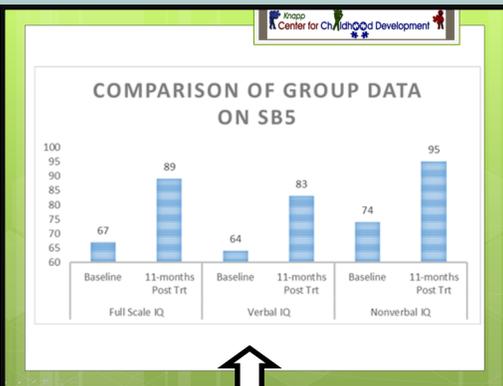


The Initial Steps Infant and Toddler Day Treatment Program began its journey in September 2014. We began with 4 children entering into the program, and have grown to 24 currently being treated on a daily basis. There have been many exciting developments in the Initial Steps Program over the last few months. These include an expansion of the program, children graduating from the program and transitioning to typical Kindergarten, and outcome data supporting the effectiveness of the program.

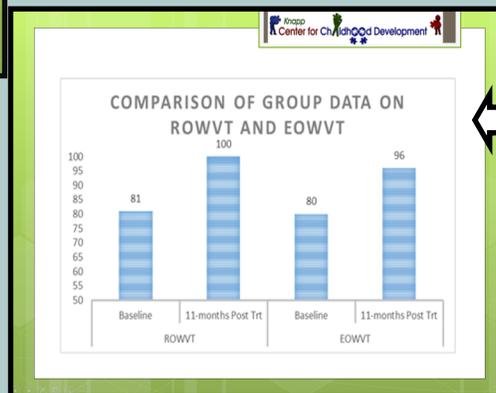


We recently had a graduation celebration to honor 4 children who would be transitioning from the Initial Steps Program to typical Kindergarten. The graduation celebration consisted of presenting outcome data, parents watching a slide show highlighting progress children have made in the program. The graduation also included a show put on by all of the children, allowing them the opportunity to show off their talents, interests and sense of humor. All children made a special memory book highlighting the 2014-15 year (i.e., friends, favorite songs, activities they participated in at the program).

We would like to share the outcome data from our first year of treatment. Between September-December 2014, 12 children were enrolled into the Knapp Center Initial Steps Program. All children were assessed prior to treatment initiation, and were re-assessed in August 2015, after receiving between 8-11 months of treatment. It's been an exciting first year in the program, with substantial progress in all areas! Over the course of the next year, we will continue to provide our children the best quality of care, based upon the latest research, and our outcomes.



On average, our students gained 22 points in their Full Scale IQ!



On average, receptive language improved from 2 years 9 months developmental level to 5 years 2 months. This is a gain of 2 years, 5 months in the 11 months of treatment! With identifying objects expressively using single words, our students gained 14 points, or went from 2 years 5 months developmental level to 3 years 11 months. This is a gain of 1 year, 6 months in the 11 months of treatment!



On average, 7 of our students who were non-verbal or had less than 50 words (average was 21 words, 9 phrases and 0 sentences) made significant language gains. After 11 months of treatment, they now are using (on average) 261 words, 64 phrases and 58 sentences!



Teen S.T.E.P.S. Treatment Program (Steps Toward Educational & Psychological Success)

Coordinator: Kris Brown M.S., BCBA, COBA

The Teen S.T.E.P.S. Treatment Program at the Knapp Center for Childhood Development is our newest program, and began in January 2015. This is a treatment program for youth; ages 13-18, who have been identified with developmental delays or autism, combined with co-existing anxiety, depression, ADHD and/or learning disabilities. The patients in this program have not been successful in private or public education, and require more intensive treatment, in a safe therapeutic environment that offers a mock-classroom, where treatment can be implemented and generalized more easily back to their natural environment. The focus of the Teen STEPS program is on providing intensive behavioral, psychological and developmental remediation, to prevent the need for long-term care, and allow for successful transition of the patient to an out-patient level of care. The program utilizes the evidenced based practice of applied behavior analysis, group therapy and cognitive behavior therapy, to promote psychological, behavioral, educational, vocational and social development. These interventions are implemented under the supervision of a psychologist and BCBA's. Patients receive treatment in both one-on-one and group formats. In the group format, patients participate in therapy that focuses on social skills, executive functioning, pragmatic language and emotional modulation. In the individual format, patients participate in therapy that focuses on vocational skills, functional academics, and adaptive skills. Throughout the course of treatment, behavior plans are implemented to reduce problematic behaviors. In addition, regular consultation and/or training occurs with parents, to promote skills of the caregiver to carry over treatment success into the home.



Knapp Center Teen Program

2015-2016 Session Calendar

August 2015							September 2015							October 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			

November 2015							December 2015							January 2016						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

February 2016							March 2016							April 2016						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2016							June 2016							July 2016						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

Green = First and last day of Treatment Year (Aug 24th – May 27th)
 Red = No Treatment. Knapp Center will be closed (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Good Friday, Easter, Memorial Day, 4th of July)
 Yellow = Knapp Center open, Teen Program off (i.e., Labor Day, President's Day, MLK Day)

International & Remote Program

Coordinator: Christa Homlitas M.S., BCBA, COBA

International ABA Program

The Knapp Center's International Program was initiated in 2011. We welcome international patients, and are willing to assist patients to temporarily relocate to the United States, for ABA treatment. Recently, we supported applications to the United States Embassy for families traveling from Egypt to the United States for 6-12 months, in order to receive ABA treatment for their child with autism. One family in particular has been successful in gaining temporary Visas for the past 3 years, in order to stay in the United States and continue to receive treatment that has been successful for their child. We are currently treating a child in our Initial Steps Program, who traveled here from Kuwait. This December, we will be assisting our 5th family from Egypt, to re-locate to the US, for services from the Knapp Center.

Alternatively, for international patients who cannot stay in the United States for an extended time period, in order to receive treatment, we offer an alternative, which includes receiving the treatment in their home country. This involves the family visiting the United States for 2-3 weeks for intensive ABA training that will be 40-45 hours per week; or receiving this training via our on-line HIPPA secure website. In some cases, depending on security alerts within a given country, the Knapp Center is willing to send staff to the patient's home country every few months in order to provide hands-on treatment and training.

More recently, we are working with a family in Tokyo, Japan to develop training modules for their child's treatment team. The purpose of the modules are to provide intensive training in Applied Behavior Analysis, to teach the team the skills necessary to implement the ABA treatment program. Previously we have worked with families in Egypt, Belgium and the Virgin Islands.



HIPAA secure, cloud based, Telemental Health office.

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Remote ABA Program

The objective of the Remote Training and Supervision Program is to enable parents and therapists who live in a rural area, or an area lacking ABA services, by providing training that focuses on the skills necessary to implement an effective ABA program. In addition, this program strives to work with schools in other states, who want to replicate our program or implement our published curriculum reliably.

Parent, therapist and teacher training is an integral part of the Remote Training and Supervision Program, and includes in-vivo trainings and/or webinars. Parents are taught how to implement ABA procedures in the home, while therapists and teachers may learn how to implement ABA interventions, and our curriculum in the school environment. Supervision and assessment occur at regular intervals by Dr. Knapp and a BCBA, to select appropriate treatment goals and interventions, to ensure optimal progress and success.

This year, we are preparing to train a school in New York who educates 800 children with autism or other developmental delays. We will train them to implement our published curriculum and use effective ABA techniques to educate their children.

Knapp Center Internship Program

Coordinator: Mary Brown M.S., BCBA, COBA

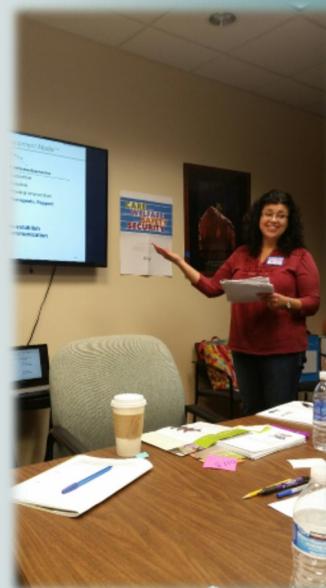
Over the course of the past 5 years, The Knapp Center for Childhood Development's Internship program has been preparing graduate students to earn their BCBA certification. This program offers BCBA supervision and fieldwork experience according to the guidelines set forth by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Interns will accumulate a minimum of 1500 hours of experience and supervision hours over the 2 year internship period, by completing duties typically performed by a BCBA, to help them build their skill sets and develop essential behaviors necessary to practice as a successful Behavior Analyst. Internship duties include: attending lectures on behavior analytic topics, attending group meetings with the internship cohort, shadowing BCBA's on a variety of cases to ensure experience with a wide range of clients, completion of a long term patient project that will be offered free to all our patients, attending Behavior Analytic Committee meetings, gaining experience in supervision and coaching of RBT's, and various other duties typically performed by a Behavior Analyst. The Knapp Center Internship program is open to any individual who is currently enrolled in a graduate program in behavior analysis or related field and is seeking the BCBA credential. After successful completion of the internship experience, interns will have fulfilled the field work requirements necessary to sit for the BCBA exam. Additional benefits of the program include: tuition assistance for individuals who have been with the Knapp Center for at least one year, learning from 11 BCBA's on staff with varying areas of expertise, and completion of all BCBA supervision hours free of charge.

Currently, the 2015-2016 internship cohort consists of 4 staff members including: Rachael Cooper (not pictured), Cara Colucci, Suzie Frye, and Josh Dankovich. The interns are all working together to create a Parent Intranet for parents to log into and gain pertinent treatment information, to better help parents effectively implement and generalize treatment strategies and progress into the home.



Staff Education & Training

The Knapp Center continues to strive to provide our patients and their families with the highest quality of service. One way that we achieve this expectation is by continuously educating and training our staff. This includes ongoing training for our team of 11 Board Certified Behavior Analysts and over 30 Behavior Technicians. The Knapp Center is an approved continuing education provider by the Behavior Analytic Certification Board, which means we constantly provide trainings to BCBAs to improve their skills while they receive CEUs for their participation.



All Behavior Technicians hired at the Knapp Center must first complete a 6-hour lecture-based orientation followed by a minimum of 80 hours of intensive training (with our training team) in our Onsite Reliability Training Program. Beginning August of 2015, all new and current Behavior Technician's are now required to begin a more advanced and rigorous training series of 40 additional training hours. This training series qualifies our Behavior Technician's to sit for the Registered Behavior Technician Competency Assessment. After demonstrating competency in over 40 behavior analytic tasks/subtasks outlined on the RBT Task List, the BT will earn the RBT Certification. Each of our current Behavior Technician's will be certified as a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) by the end of 2015. This training ensures that our BTs demonstrate the understanding and competency to implement more complex behavior analytic strategies under the supervision of a BCBA. This will continue to allow the Knapp Center to stand apart in our area in regards to providing quality, evidence-based treatment to our patients. To learn more about the RBT training, visit www.bacb.com.



Beginning October 2015, all of our staff are mandated to attend 8 hours of training in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI). CPI is an international training organization committed to best practices and safe behavior management methods that focus on prevention. CPI educates and empowers professionals to create safe and respectful work environments so our patient can continue to receive quality treatment. This enables professionals to enrich not only their own lives, but also the lives of the individuals they serve. A Knapp Center BCBA volunteered to become an instructor in CPI, who is now training and certifying all our staff in this crisis prevention method (Thanks Mickey!). This designation means our staff will be better equipped to manage a situation in which a child might be verbally or physically aggressive.

We continue to provide specific training or seek specific training relevant to the children we serve. For example, one of our patients has juvenile diabetes, so the Knapp Center reached out to Akron Children's Hospital to provide us a training workshop on diabetes. One of our goals in 2016 is to certify all of our staff in CPR, by the American Red Cross.



Looking Back over the Past 5 Years

Executive Director, Dr. Julie Knapp, PhD, BCBA-D, COBA

I am honored to lead such a great group of people who strive to make the lives better for our those with developmental delays or other struggles. There is no better reward in life than helping a child realize their potential. When I reflect back, I am grateful for all the families who trusted us in the care of their child. In this edition, we have celebrated some of our program achievements and accomplishments. Now allow me to reflect on some specific accomplishment examples reported to us by our parents:

- ⇒ We toilet trained dozens of individuals, including a teenager who came to us still in diapers (a 16-year old male with Down's Syndrome).
- ⇒ We taught hundreds of kids to talk, including a child whose father teared up telling us his child told him he loved him for the first time (from a father with a 3-year old male with autism).
- ⇒ We reduced and/or eliminated problematic behaviors in many kids, including a child who was expelled from school due to aggression. We homeschooled him, eliminated aggression and successfully re-introduced him back to school (from a mom with a 10-year old male with autism).
- ⇒ With Halloween recently passing, some of our children were able to successfully go Trick or Treating for the 1st time, when they were unable to tolerate it in previous years.
- ⇒ One of our teenagers in Outreach has been able to finally have phone conversations with his parents, engage in family nights by playing board games and demonstrate an overall level of awareness of the emotions of himself and others. (from parents of a 16-year old male with autism).
- ⇒ A sense of humor has developed in many of our kids, leading to plenty of laughs during treatment and at home. Many parents have reported that they have finally been able to see the personality of their child shine through.
- ⇒ There are so many stories that get shared with us daily, of ways that your children are growing and becoming more independent. Please continue to share these stories with us! It's extremely gratifying knowing that our little ones are learning so much and surprising and encouraging us and their parents each and every day!

Your children are our inspiration and we are very lucky to have been part of their success. I extend a big thank you to our parents!!!



Our Staff

We will continue to strive for excellence and improve the quality of our programs and treatment. It is our hope to extend the number of programs offered to the families we serve and expand current programs to assist more families.

