



WOW Factor



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS STRONG

Fifteen years of supporting children, families and communities.



In 2011, ABS Kids began with a commitment to helping families access quality autism care. Fifteen years later, that commitment continues to guide everything we do.



Today, ABS Kids serves families across more than 80 centers, partnering with autistic children and their families to build meaningful skills, celebrate progress and create more opportunities at home, at school and in the community.



As we celebrate this milestone, our mission remains the same: helping every child reach milestones and realize their potential.



Every milestone is made possible by the children, families, team members and communities who make up ABS Kids.



Fifteen years in, the WOW is still growing because of you.

Connect With ABS Kids This August

Join ABS Kids at family-friendly events, resource fairs and sensory-friendly activities happening throughout our communities this August.

 **August 1**
Day Won Back-To-School Event
[West Valley City, UT](#)

 **August 6**
Neighborhood Nights
[Greenville, SC](#)

 **August 6**
Mountainlands Family Health Fair
[Provo, UT](#)

 **August 8**
Chill Act SLC
[Salt Lake City, UT](#)

 **August 15**
Sensory Summer Send-Off: 15th Anniversary Edition
[Garner, NC](#)

 **August 15**
Sensory Summer Celebration: 15th Anniversary Edition!
[Grantsville, UT](#)

 **August 19-20**
Building Hope for Children Conference
[Columbia, SC](#)

 **August 21**
Community Baby Shower and Resource Fair
[Monroe, NC](#)

 **August 22**
Sensory-Friendly Morning
[Rock Hill, SC](#)

 **August 23**
Disability Resource Expo
[Greenville, SC](#)

 **August 25**
Sensory-Friendly Tuesday Evening
[St. George, UT](#)

 **August 28**
MAKE'm SMILE NC
[Gastonia, NC](#)

 **August 28**
Community Baby Shower and Block Party
[Concord, NC](#)

 **August 28-30**
2026 NCPeds Annual Meeting
[Durham, NC](#)



Visit abskids.com/events to discover upcoming events near you.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND EVERY MILESTONE

Progress Happens Together



At ABS Kids, meaningful progress is built through collaboration. Families, clinicians, behavior technicians and support teams work together to understand each child's needs, respond to challenges and create opportunities for growth.

That teamwork shows up in the everyday moments: answering a parent's question, adjusting support when a child's needs change, explaining goals clearly, celebrating a new skill or simply being there when a family needs encouragement.

Across ABS Kids, team members bring **compassion, patience and expertise** to every interaction. Some provide direct care, while others coordinate schedules, support families, solve problems and help each day run more smoothly.

Although their roles may look different, they share the same purpose: creating a positive, supportive experience for autistic children and their families. By listening, communicating and working together, they help turn everyday moments into meaningful progress.





ABS Kids

Meet Becca Martin

Licensed Psychological Associate

Helping families understand the full picture and find a path forward.

Becca Martin is a Licensed Psychological Associate at the Gilead Center in Huntersville, North Carolina, where she conducts evaluations and can diagnose autism under North Carolina's licensure requirements.

Outside of work, Becca enjoys spending time with her family, her nearly two-year-old daughter and their energetic golden retriever. She grew up playing soccer and still joins an adult league when she can. She also enjoys being outdoors, staying active and snowboarding during the winter.



Family



Outdoor



Soccer



Snowboarding



Golden Retriever



What Led Her to Psychology

Becca's path was shaped by a supervisor she worked with before joining ABS Kids. That supervisor developed a school-based mental health program in rural Appalachia, bringing services to families who may not have otherwise known they were available.

Seeing the difference that access could make helped Becca realize how much she loved working with children.

Today, she brings that same commitment to families navigating developmental concerns and the evaluation process. For Becca, providing timely, high-quality services can make a meaningful difference during a period that is often filled with uncertainty and barriers.

Seven Years of Supporting Children and Families

Before joining ABS Kids, Becca worked in a school-based mental health program serving a rural community in western North Carolina. When she relocated to Huntersville to be closer to family, ABS Kids gave her the opportunity to continue supporting children and families.

Seven years later, she remains grateful for the people who have shaped her experience.

"The psychology team across ABS Kids has been amazing. It has been so rewarding to work alongside people with different backgrounds, perspectives and skill sets. You learn so much just by interacting with one another."

Becca's office is now located inside a center that provides both diagnostic and ABA services. That setting allows her to see what happens after an evaluation; not only helping a family better understand their child, but also watching that child make progress in therapy over time.

Helping Families Put the Pieces Together

"An evaluation is like putting together a puzzle. We help families understand what the pieces mean and connect them with resources for their next steps."



Reaching Milestones. REALIZING POTENTIAL



Meet Ronata Morrison

Lead BCBA



As Director of ABA Services at our Wellness Way center, Ronata helps guide clinical care, support teams and build trusting relationships with families.

From Hesitation to Trust

One family arrived at Wellness Way after a difficult daycare experience. The mother was understandably nervous about leaving her child somewhere new.

During a center tour, her child explored the space while the team answered questions and helped the family feel comfortable. When services began, elopement was a major concern.

Today, he walks while holding an adult's hand.

"It is a story of trust, progress and what becomes possible when families feel heard and supported."

Originally from Columbia, South Carolina, Ronata now lives in Fort Mill and has worked in ABA since college. She became a BCBA in 2019 and has experience providing center-based, in-home and school-based services.

Outside of work, she enjoys fishing, hiking, traveling, shopping, spending time on the water and finding a good brunch spot.



Fishing



Hiking



On the Water



Travel



Brunch



Finding Her Place in ABA

Ronata initially planned to become a school psychologist while working in ABA part time. As she continued her coursework, she realized ABA felt more aligned with the meaningful, hands-on work she wanted to do.

What began as a college job soon became her career.



Helping Families Understand Today's ABA

Ronata knows families may arrive with concerns based on outdated information or negative stories online. Her approach is to listen, answer questions and explain what compassionate, individualized care looks like at ABS Kids.

Group parent training has also created a space for caregivers to discuss what they expected before services and what they have learned since beginning ABA.

Creating a Supportive Start for Families

Starting ABA services can bring a mix of hope, uncertainty and questions. Ronata helps make that transition more comfortable by creating a welcoming environment, learning each family's priorities and connecting caregivers with the team supporting their child.

Her goal is for families to feel included from the beginning and confident that their voices will remain an important part of their child's care.



"Compassionate care begins with open communication. Families deserve to understand what we are doing, why we are doing it and how it supports their child."

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS

- ✓ **Put your child's voice** at the center of planning by considering how they communicate their needs, preferences and discomfort.
- ✓ **Practice useful** requests such as “help,” “break,” “stop,” “bathroom” and “more time” before school begins.
- ✓ Make sure your **child's preferred communication method**, including an AAC device or visual supports, is available and understood at school.
- ✓ **Watch for early signs of stress** or frustration and offer support before your child becomes overwhelmed.
- ✓ **Practice common school routines** such as getting ready, entering the building, changing activities and riding transportation..
- ✓ **Focus on cooperation** rather than compliance by respecting verbal and nonverbal expressions of discomfort.
- ✓ **Share successful strategies** with teachers, therapists, transportation staff and other members of your child's support team.
- ✓ **Tell the care team** about changes in sleep, routines, eating or behavior that could affect the school day.
- ✓ **Prioritize life skills**, self-advocacy and independence rather than focusing only on academic readiness.
- ✓ **Remember that transitions** can include progress and setbacks. Continue adjusting support based on what your child communicates.

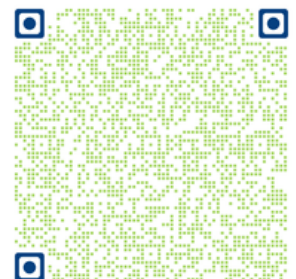
LISTEN FIRST. Every child's voice matters.



Episode #237

Family Engagement and Advocacy: Building Real Inclusion for Autistic Individuals

Host Jeff Skibitsky sits down with Amy Kelly, National Director of Family Engagement at Devereux and mother of three, including her daughter Annie, who was diagnosed with autism just before her second birthday. With nearly 20 years working directly with families and a career built out of her own experience navigating the system, Amy brings both professional expertise and lived experience to a conversation about what real inclusion looks like.





This month, families across our centers shared what their experience with ABS Kids has meant to them. These are their stories.



Kaysville Flint

We appreciate the wonderful support and professionalism the ABS Kids team provides for our five-year-old grandson, who is on the spectrum. We are especially grateful for the structured learning environment, the staff's kindness and dedication, and their help with potty training.

We chose ABS Kids because one of our older grandsons attended as a toddler 14 years ago. The early intervention strategies he learned have continued to benefit him. Now 16, he excels academically, interacts well with others and plays in three—yes, three!—honor bands at school.

Thank you, ABS Kids, for your attentive and invaluable services. You are truly a godsend Grace and Kent!

Garner New Fidelity

My son has been attending ABS Kids since he was about two and a half years old, and the staff have been amazing. Ernest and his team are wonderful. Nickey is gentle and sweet with the kids, Sarah is very knowledgeable, Kira is always helpful, and Vanessa, Theresa and Manasa are all kind and supportive.

They have helped us throughout my son's journey, always listening to our concerns and guiding us through the next steps. He has made so much progress since starting at ABS Kids. Now five, he is ready for his next journey: kindergarten.

Thank you, ABS Kids family! You are awesome!

Charlotte Hawthorne

ABS Kids ha sido un lugar excelente para mi hijo. El personal es increíble. Mi hijo ha aprendido y evolucionado mucho en ABS Kids. También me mantienen informada sobre sus evaluaciones y citas. Nos sentimos muy acogidos en ABS Kids. Nos llevan de la mano durante este proceso. Estamos muy agradecidos con ABS Kids por tan bonita labor.

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ABS Kids has been an excellent place for my son. The staff is incredible, and my son has learned and grown so much during his time there. They also keep me informed about his evaluations and appointments. We feel very welcomed and supported at ABS Kids. They have guided us every step of the way throughout this process. We are very grateful to ABS Kids for the wonderful work they do.

Rancho Grove

me encanta el centro todos son muy amables y mi hijo recibe toda la atencion q nesecita.

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I love the center. Everyone is very kind, and my son receives all the attention he needs.

WHAT'S YOUR WOW

CHECK OUT OUR WOW
MOMENTS FROM JULY!

Nadeya D.

Nadeya witnessed an incredible communication journey. When she first began working with her client, the child communicated primarily through signs and an AAC device. Every attempt to express a want, need or feeling was celebrated.

With consistent encouragement and support from the treatment team and family, the client's spoken language continued to grow. Today, the child can have full conversations and confidently connect with the people around them.

That is a WOW moment in its purest form. Patience, teamwork and individualized support helping a child strengthen their voice and communication.

Congratulations, Nadeya!



Ximena C.

Breakfast transitions were once extremely difficult for Ximena's client. Turning off the television and using utensils often led to frustration and self-injurious behavior.

Through consistent priming, redirection and patient support, the client gradually began sitting for breakfast and participating more independently.

Then came the breakthrough. His mother shared that he independently sat beside her and began eating with a fork. A routine that once felt overwhelming had become a moment of confidence and independence.

Progress like this shows how skills practiced during therapy can make a meaningful difference at home.

WOW FACTOR