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HEALTH/WELLNESS



Local behavioral center may be answer for military parents of autistic children

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

Parents face many potential dangers in the form of ailments, but few realize that autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability among U.S. children. Facing the concern, TRICARE has stepped up to provide treatment and therapy military families can depend on.

The U.S. military health care plan currently covers up to \$36,000 a year of applied behavior analysis therapy. ABA coverage extends to \$200,000 over a lifetime under TRICARE. For those at MacDill, there also is a quality resource for ABA therapy in the Tampa Bay area.

Behavioral Consulting of Tampa

Bay is a local organization with offices in Hillsborough and Pasco counties. It is committed to assisting children using ABA therapy, utilizing a highly trained staff that has assisted more than 200 children diagnosed with both autism spectrum disorders and other problem behaviors using ABA therapy.

ABA is a human behavior science and has a 30-year history of research. More than 500 studies in scientific journals attest to the effectiveness of ABA for children diagnosed with autism, according to a Behavioral consulting release.

Parents of children with autism should contact TRICARE to discuss treatment and therapy options, including ABA.