WAC 182-531A-0200 Applied behavior analysis (ABA)—Definitions.
The following definitions and those found in chapter 182-500 WAC, medical definitions, and chapter 182-531 WAC, physician-related services, apply throughout this chapter.

Applied behavior analysis or **ABA** - Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is an empirically validated approach to improve behavior and skills related to core impairments associated with autism and a number of other developmental disabilities. ABA involves the systematic application of scientifically validated principles of human behavior to change inappropriate behaviors. ABA uses scientific methods to reliably demonstrate that behavioral improvements are caused by the prescribed interventions. ABA's focus on social significance promotes a family-centered and whole-life approach to intervention. Common methods used include: Assessment of behavior, caregiver interviews, direct observation, and collection of data on targeted behaviors. A single-case design is used to demonstrate the relationship between the environment and behavior as a means to implement client-specific ABA therapy treatment plans with specific goals and promote lasting change. ABA also includes the implementation of a functional behavior assessment to identify environmental variables that maintain challenging behavior and allow for more effective interventions to be developed that reduce challenging behaviors and teach appropriate replacement behaviors.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) - A condition, as defined by *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) criteria.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnostic tool - A validated tool used to establish the presence (or absence) of autism and to make a definitive diagnosis which will be the basis for treatment decisions and assist in the development of a multidisciplinary clinical treatment plan. Examples of autism diagnostic tools include:
(a) Autism Diagnosis Interview (ADI); and
(b) Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS).

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) screening tool - A tool used to detect ASD indicators or risk factors which then require confirmation. Examples of screening tools include, but are not limited to:
(a) Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ);
(b) Communication and Symbolic Behavior Scales (CSBS);
(c) Parent's Evaluation and Developmental Status (PEDS);
(d) Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT); and
(e) Screening Tools for Autism in Toddlers and young children (STAT).

Centers of excellence (COE) - A hospital, medical center, or other health care provider that establishes or confirms the diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder and develops the multidisciplinary clinical treatment plan and that has been designated by the agency as a center of excellence.

Client or child - For the purposes of this chapter, client or child means a person younger than twenty-one years of age and enrolled in Washington apple health (WAH).

Family member - A child's parent, guardian, caregiver, or other support person.

Qualifying diagnosis - A diagnosis of an ASD, as defined by the DSM, or other developmental disability for which there is evidence ABA is effective.

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