

Severe behavior intake

Frequently asked questions

The Severe Behavior Clinic offers many programs to address the needs of children with problem behavior. Here are some common questions about the process of entering and using the clinic's programs.

What is the purpose of the intake process?

Our team meets with the caregivers to find out how best to serve the child's needs. This meeting is important. It lets us match the child to the most appropriate treatment program. During the meeting, we will:

- Collect information about the family's main concerns.
- Discuss which treatment services might best fit their needs.
- Observe the intensity of problem behavior.

When and where are the appointments?

Appointments are two hours long. They are scheduled daily between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Caregivers will be asked to fill out several questionnaires to provide additional information, and this will be done outside of the scheduled intake appointment time. Caregivers have a choice to either come in early, stay late or complete the forms at home and mail, fax or drop the forms off to Marcus Autism Center. Once all the forms are complete and turned in, the referral for the appropriate program will be made. All appointments take place at Marcus Autism Center.

What is the attendance policy?

We can make a program placement only when the child attends the appointment with his/her legal guardian. The child and caregiver must arrive 15 minutes before the appointment. During this time, caregivers will:

- Check in.
- Fill out forms.

Caregivers can reschedule a missed appointment. However, we will cancel services after two missed appointments. A missed appointment is defined as not arriving within 20 minutes of the scheduled time.

Who must be present during services?

The child and at least one legal guardian must be present and willing to participate for the entire visit. During the appointment, a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA) will:

- Gather information from caregivers.
- Set up situations that might let him see the child's problem behavior.

The BCBA rarely works with the child directly. Instead, the BCBA works mainly with the caregiver to:

- Observe the child's problem behavior.
- Assess the child's treatment needs.
- Identify temporary plans that can help while the family waits for admission to a treatment program.
- Provide a final program recommendation.

Other caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend appointments.

Is this the right program for my child?

The Severe Behavior Program is best for children who engage in behavior problems that affect the family's quality of life.

This service is not ideal for:

- Caregivers who need assessments or interventions that focus only on increasing skills
- Those who are seeking a formal diagnosis

Should I bring any items or documents?

Once we receive information about a child who might benefit from our services, a staff member will mail the caregiver a packet. The packet might arrive one to two weeks after a referral is made. The forms in the packet must be completed before we can schedule an appointment. The forms help us:

- Assess the child's needs.
- Identify the best type of treatment program for the child.

The caregiver must fill out and return the forms within 30 days of the date received. If we do not receive the packet within this time, we will close the child's referral until we receive it. We will contact the caregiver to schedule the intake once we receive the completed packet.

For the appointment, please bring:

- The child's favorite leisure items, such as toys or electronic devices
- Any items needed to complete common household tasks (This will let us see how the child responds to demands.)

Questions

Email marcusbtcintake@choa.org or call 404-785-9311 for more information.