

# AUTISM SIGNS + SYMPTOMS



Autism symptoms begin in early childhood, persist, and can interfere with daily living.

## SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

- Avoiding eye contact
- Abnormal tone of voice
- Behavioral disturbances
- Lack of empathy
- Intense focus on one topic
- Difficulty understand social cues
- Not engaging in play with peers
- Repeating words or movements
- Delay in learning to speak

## CONTACT US

 1 (800) 284-8288

 [lifewaysmi.org](http://lifewaysmi.org)

 [facebook.com/lifewaysmi](https://facebook.com/lifewaysmi)

## PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING

**Person-Centered Planning** means you and your child will be **actively engaged** in planning and supporting your child's care. This process builds upon your child's **preferences, choices, and abilities.**

## AUTISM SERVICES



# ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

A person may be eligible for Autism Services at LifeWays if:

- They are under 21 years old.
- They live in Jackson or Hillsdale County.
- LifeWays has diagnosed them with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- They are currently eligible for Medicaid, MIChild, or Healthy Michigan Plan.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LifeWays staff will work **directly with you and your child** to complete several assessments. If your child is approved for the program, they will work with a **team of experts** that will provide **intensive autism support services**.

## ADOS/ADI-R EVALUATION

The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) and the Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R) are considered to be the '**gold standard**' in **diagnostic evaluations** for autism.

## APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA)

The ABA Program is a **results-based** program which uses a multitude of **tests and assessments** to track the **progress** your child is making while they are in the program.

# PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS

## ELIGIBILITY

**1** Contact LifeWays to complete a phone screening and schedule an assessment.  
*Total time: 10 min*

**2** Complete an assessment with a mental health professional at LifeWays.\*  
*Total time: 60-90 min*

**3** If appropriate, a referral will be made to an ASD case manager.  
*Total time: Referral times can vary.*

**4** A referral packet is completed with an ASD case manager and submitted for approval.\*\*

**5** If referral is approved, an ADOS/ADI-R is completed at LifeWays and submitted for approval.\*\*\*  
*Total time: 3-4 hours across 2 sessions*

**6** If ADOS/ADI-R is approved, a referral to the first available ABA provider occurs.\*\*\*\*  
*Total time: Referral times can vary.*

## SERVICE DELIVERY

ABA provider will schedule a time to complete an evaluation. **7**

A comprehensive individual plan of service is developed including ABA. **8**

ABA services will begin, utilizing a schedule developed with you and your child. **9**

ABA provider will complete periodic reviews of services and progress. \*\*\*\*\* **10**

\* If the results of the intake assessment indicate the need for treatment other than autism, appropriate referrals will be made.

\*\* If you have commercial insurance with coverage for autism we will assist you in scheduling an assessment with approved center/provider. If you have Medicaid only, LifeWays CAN provide services.

\*\*\* If referral is pended for information, differential/psychological testing will be requested prior to scheduling.

\*\*\*\* If you are denied, you will be notified.

\*\*\*\*\* ADOS completed minimally every three years. Can be completed more often if necessary.