

ABA: Effective and Individualized

ABA is a methodology, or framework, that applies scientific interventions to address behavioral needs. ABA facilitates the development of language, social interactions, and independent living by applying basic behavioral practices — positive reinforcement, teaching in small steps, prompting, and repeated practice. ABA can also help reduce both everyday social problems and serious behavior disorders.



Highly Trained Staff

On-site staff include certified special education teachers and supervisors with expertise in the fields of autism and ABA. Occupational and physical therapists as well as speech and language pathologists are part of the team providing services to the school.

All teaching staff complete a program of competency-based training that covers the most effective methods for working with children with autism and related disorders. The school benefits from the expertise of doctoral-level professionals and board certified behavior analysts (BCBA). The Institute's clinical leadership includes experts in autism, special education, early childhood development, and psychology.

How Can I Learn More?

Our team of clinical experts carefully reviews all completed applications for placement. We schedule on-site screenings with the child, family, and representatives of referring agencies as appropriate. We welcome visitors to our school. Tours can be arranged upon request.



About May Institute

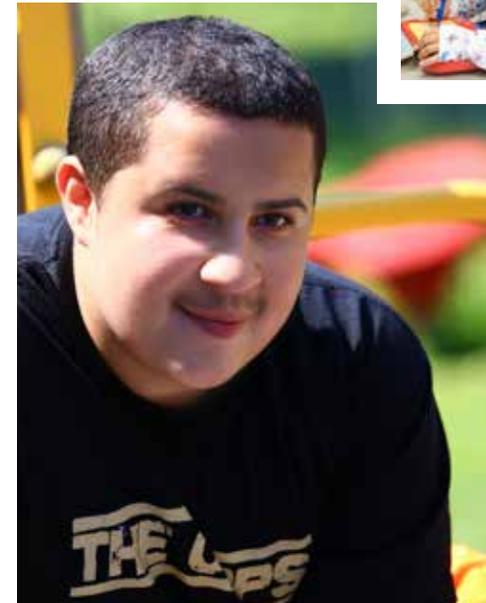
May Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and other behavioral health needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public schools.

Since its founding 60 years ago, May Institute has evolved into an award-winning national network that serves thousands of individuals and their families annually at more than 150 service locations across the country. The Institute is an active center of research and training, maintaining affiliations with more than 50 universities, hospitals, and human service agencies worldwide.

The Institute has four May Center Schools that serve children and adolescents with ASD and other developmental disabilities — some offer residential living.



WEST SPRINGFIELD,
MASSACHUSETTS



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To learn more about the May Center School or to arrange a tour, please contact us at 413.785.5462.

511 Main Street, West Springfield, MA 01089 | www.mayinstitute.org

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

MAY CENTER SCHOOL IS:

Belonging
Learning
Pride
Opportunity



May Center School Snapshot:

Age Range:	3–22
Educational Method:	applied behavior analysis (ABA)
Staff–Student Ratio:	1:1 or 1:2
Length of Program:	full-day, 12-month

The May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities in West Springfield, Mass., serves children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities. As part of May Institute's award-winning national network of behavioral and educational services, the school makes progress possible for *all* of our students, even those with the most challenging learning and behavior problems.

Our year-round school provides individualized instruction six hours per day to children from pre-school through age 22, and has a low teacher-to-student ratio. We use scientifically sound teaching methods and a data-based tracking system that enables us to monitor each child's progress.

Meeting Individual Needs

After assessing a child's individual needs, our teaching team develops goals and objectives that specify observable, measurable behaviors. Every student has an individualized education plan that combines the best practices of child development, special education, language instruction, and skill development. We continually evaluate and adjust each child's program to ensure the greatest achievement possible. We teach parents the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) to help them support their child's continuing progress.

“Attending the May Center School is the opportunity of a lifetime for our son. This is the first time I've put my son on a school bus with such inner peace... that's a really, really good feeling.”

—Parent

Focusing on Skill Development

The May Center School's individualized, developmentally appropriate educational services have an intense focus on skill development. In accordance with Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines, our program helps students improve communication, academics, gross and fine motor skills, and social and community relations.

Our staff members work closely with families and school districts as we prepare children for more independent living. We address challenging behaviors, cooperative play, and transitions to and from various activities.

The May Center School strives to help children acquire vital skills in highly structured settings and then expand these skills in the most meaningful environments possible. Skill development and generalization activities are incorporated into the natural context of play, social interactions, and daily routines to maximize communication skills. We are committed to working cooperatively with families in this endeavor, providing daily communication

and additional support services such as educational workshops and home visits.



For 60 years, May Institute has been guided by its mission of helping families navigate the obstacles—and celebrate the successes—of their children's extraordinary journeys through the complex world of autism and related disabilities.