



abacus
achieving with autism

DISCOVER OUR
ABA PROGRAMS



ABOUT ABACUS

Abacus Learning Centre opened in 2008 when a group of parents and supporters shared an inspired vision to open one of Australia's first centre-based early intervention services.

In the last 15 years, we have helped over 700 families access life-changing one-to-one therapy for their children. This is an intensive process using Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) that seems a lot like play for our students, who love Abacus.

Our mission is to continue helping autistic children connect, communicate and learn by providing therapy in their pivotal early learning years, where brain development is at a rapid pace and opportunities for learning are vast.

The work we do not only impacts the student but it enables many families see a future of work and community participation that they couldn't imagine before. In fact, the majority of our students attend mainstream schools upon completion of our programs and need less supports across their lifetime.



There's ABA therapy and then there is Abacus ABA where therapy is led by the child and life-changing skills are learnt. Individual play-based programs provide opportunities for autistic children to actively and imaginatively engage in their learning.

Capacity Building for the Future

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) is a best practice, evidence informed and effective intervention for autistic children.

At Abacus we believe in your child's unique strengths and abilities. Our dedicated team collaborates closely with families to design personalised programs that cater to each child's individuality. By embracing a strengths-based perspective, we foster an environment where your child can grow.

The Science Behind Success

ABA harnesses the principles of learning theory. We implement a systematic, measurable strategy to enhance, reduce, maintain and generalise target behaviours. From speech and language to social skills, adaptive living and play skills we cover every aspect of development and your NDIS goals.

We believe that learning should be enjoyable. That's why Abacus promotes a play based approach to most of our activities. Through engaging and interactive play your child will be on a path to success, all while having fun!

An Australian Government funded review of the most effective models of practice in early intervention concluded that *'Evidence-based... guidelines are particularly important in the field of autism where there has been so much debate, and where there are many heavily promoted approaches for which there is no scientific evidence, and which can even be harmful. Intensive educational and behavioural interventions such as ABA have produced positive outcomes for children with autism'*. (Prior Roberts 2006) www.health.gov.au

Why Abacus ABA?

- Proven results: our approach is based on solid research and real-world outcomes
- Family centred: we wrap a team around your family and your input is invaluable in shaping your child's journey
- Tailored programs: no two children are the same, and neither are our program plans
- Comprehensive focus: From communication to daily skills we cover all the bases

Each therapy program is designed to maximise your child's capacity to participate in their education and community with minimal ongoing support. Therapy at Abacus is assent based and staff are trained in providing trauma informed care for all our children.

Abacus ABA encompasses various teaching techniques including:

- Natural Environment Teaching – used to teach new skills and generalise learned skills by delivering ABA therapy within natural activities like play and in real-life settings like kindergarten and school
- Discrete Trial Training – involves breaking down specific skills into discrete steps which are then taught in a graduated fashion



CENTRE-BASED ABA

The welcoming and caring Abacus team provide centre-based early intervention for autistic children. Individual programs are designed in consultation with families and delivered in a fun, playful, learning environment.

Child-Centred Approach

When a child is welcomed into the Abacus circle we take the time to get to know their strengths, interests and learning needs. We believe a successful early intervention program is built on the recognition of their individuality and uniqueness. It is very important to listen to the family and understand each child's needs.

Following discussion with parents and observation of the student, our clinical team carry out a thorough assessment. The student's age, stage of development, the number of weekly teaching hours and any family goals related to the child's functioning within the home environment are all taken into account when determining the aims and strategies of their program.

Each customised and comprehensive one-to-one therapy session is designed to best meet the student's needs according to their learning style. Positive relationships are built with the student and their therapy team, making sessions both enjoyable and productive. Every month our team continue to adapt and improve the child's program to best suit their needs.

Support for Families

Parent training is a crucial part of an effective therapy program. Once a student begins, parents will receive regular training specific to their child at strategy review sessions and are invited to observe therapy or take home video footage to view.

We also provide an open and caring environment where parents can connect with other families in a similar situation.

Designed for Children Aged 2 to 6 years old

Early intervention students at Abacus must attend a minimum of 14 hours to receive the clinical benefit of ABA therapy. Students can attend up to 30 hours of therapy per week. Half-day or full day sessions are available.

Students can attend the centre from the age of two, and additional therapy can also be provided at childcare, kinder and school as clinically recommended.

Our centre-based service is located in Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.



COMMUNITY ABA

The Abacus Community ABA program paves the way for personalised, impactful experiences in kindergartens and childcare settings. Autistic children with learning challenges, or developmental delays will embark on a journey of growth, development and success in their early years.

Tailored for Success

We believe in the power of personalisation, crafting individualised programs that cater to each child's unique needs, strengths, and work to achieve their NDIS goals. With a dedicated focus on skill development, social interaction, and engaging within their early learning community.

Students are required to attend a full term of two-days per week on site at Abacus Learning Centre prior to participating in the Community ABA program. This helps us best understand individual needs and develop appropriate programs related to their NDIS goals.

The Best of Both Worlds

Our hybrid model offers the best of both worlds: structured, facilitated learning at our welcoming centre and the chance to apply newfound skills within other familiar environments.

With a minimum of one six-hour session per week at the early learning centre, each child will receive dedicated attention from our ABA therapists. During each one-on-one session, students will hone skills that make a real-world difference. Additionally, a weekly six-hour session at Abacus Learning Centre further enriches their learning journey.

Family Collaboration

We believe in the power of collaboration between families, educators, and our skilled therapists. Our monthly strategy review sessions held at Abacus offer an opportunity for families to actively participate in their child's progress. Educators are also invited to these sessions, ensuring a unified approach to nurturing your child's growth.

Whether your child is taking their first steps in learning or preparing for the next educational milestone, our program adapts to their evolving needs.

Designed for Children up to School-Age

The Community ABA program is designed to cater to children up to school-age and includes supports to build a successful transition into the important first year of school.

Abacus offers this program to early learning centres within a forty-five-minute radius of Hastings, Victoria.



COUNT ON ABACUS

Our primary objective is to equip school-age students with the skills they need to thrive within their learning environment. Through individually crafted one-on-one sessions, we guide them towards becoming confident, capable learners, paving the way for a brighter future.

Personalised Programs, Personalised Growth

We recognise that every student is unique, and their learning journey should reflect that. Our one-on-one sessions are tailored to each student's specific needs and learning goals. By delivering personalised Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) programs, we ensure that students are focusing on the skills that matter most to them.

The Count on Abacus program takes a bottom-up approach, building on essential foundational skills for success in a classroom setting. Our expert ABA therapists teach crucial skills in communication, social interaction, emotional regulation, and play development. These skills form the bedrock for thriving in a busy school environment.

In-School Sessions for Maximum Focus

We understand that conventional classrooms can sometimes be overwhelming. That's why our one-on-one sessions are delivered within the school premises for a minimum of two and half hours per week, providing an environment free from distractions. This tailored approach ensures that students can fully engage and make the most of their learning experiences.

Centre Based for Anchoring Learning

In addition to in-school sessions, students participate weekly in one-hour sessions at Abacus Learning Centre, where they build on their skills in a nurturing environment. This holistic approach encourages well-rounded development and growth.

Empowering Families, Building Bridges

We believe in collaboration. Strategy review sessions are conducted once per term, involving families and the student's teacher and aide. These meetings serve as platforms to discuss progress, share insights, and collectively plan for the student's success.

Designed for School-Age Students

The Count on Abacus program is designed for autistic school students up to nine years old, within a forty-five-minute radius of Hastings, Victoria.

THE NEXT STEP

When families find Abacus they often feel lost and in need of our help. They are always relieved to find someone who listens, often describing their first meeting with Abacus as a warm hug.

We work hard to build a dedicated team to support each child. This includes our clinical team of Early Childhood Educators, Key Workers and Therapists who are overseen by an amazing senior clinical leadership group, including a registered BCBA practitioner.

We regularly have students start with us who aren't able to communicate, but they leave Abacus happy, communicating and enjoying life. Our team are hopeful of being able to continue growing our service to help many more families.

Contact us today to learn more about how our programs can make a difference in your child's life. Together, we'll pave the way for a future filled with promise and achievement.

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Registered NDIS Provider