Getting Started with ELNC

Early support. Equitable access. Lifelong impact.

A family guide to Early Lens Neurobehavioral Center

ELNC supports communication, social interaction, school readiness, daily living skills, and family collaboration. Goals are built around the learner's strengths, needs, and everyday life.

What is ABA?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) uses information about learning and behavior to teach useful skills and understand what affects behavior. Services may include play, everyday routines, structured practice, and caregiver coaching. The team measures progress and adjusts the plan over time.

Your first steps

1. Connect with ELNC. Tell us about your family member, your concerns, preferred service setting, and availability. Share what matters most to your family.

2. Discuss intake and coverage. Ask which documents are needed, whether your specific insurance plan is accepted, and what benefits or authorization steps apply.

3. Complete the requested paperwork. This may include a health and developmental history, consent forms, insurance information, and relevant evaluations.

4. Confirm the assessment next steps. Ask about scheduling, what to bring, caregiver participation, and any accommodations needed.

This guide describes a general starting pathway. ELNC will confirm your family's required documents, coverage, availability, and next steps. Assessment and ongoing treatment may have separate authorization steps.

Reach out

earlylens.org | contact@earlylens.org | (443) 489-4509
1900 N. Howard Street, Suite 101, Baltimore, MD 21218

Assessment & your care plan

Share your priorities. Ask questions. Help shape meaningful goals.

What happens during an assessment?

A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) may interview caregivers, review records, observe the learner, and use skill or behavior assessments. Activities depend on the referral questions and the learner's needs. Share their interests, communication methods, helpful supports, and what makes participation comfortable.

What to have ready

Gather what you already have and ask the intake team what is required.

- Insurance card and identifying information requested by intake
- Diagnostic report or referral, if required for your services or payer
- Relevant evaluations, school plans, and previous treatment information
- Current medications, allergies, health needs, and safety concerns
- Typical schedule, caregiver availability, and your main questions

How the treatment plan comes together

The clinician uses assessment findings and family input to recommend goals, teaching approaches, service setting, and service intensity. Ask how the learner's preferences and communication will guide sessions and how progress will be reviewed. Your recommended plan and your payer's authorization may differ.

Who may be involved?

BCBA / licensed behavior analyst Assesses needs, develops and reviews the plan, coaches caregivers, and supervises implementation.
Behavior technician / RBT Practices the assigned skills and strategies with the learner and collects data under clinical supervision.
Caregivers Share priorities, help evaluate whether goals fit daily life, and practice agreed strategies.
Intake / administrative team Helps coordinate paperwork, benefits questions, and scheduling.

Before treatment begins, ask about consent, caregiver involvement, how to raise concerns, possible out-of-pocket costs, and how the team coordinates with other providers when authorized.

Preparing for the first sessions

Build familiarity, keep communication accessible, and stay connected.

What early sessions may include

Your team may spend time getting to know the learner, exploring preferred activities, learning routines, and observing which supports help. Sessions can include skill practice and data collection. Ask what the team is prioritizing and how you will receive updates.

Check with your team before arrival

Confirm the start date, location, schedule, drop-off and pickup arrangements, and attendance procedures. Ask which items to bring, such as AAC, comfort items, a change of clothing, meals, or personal care supplies. Share allergies and any food or medical instructions.

Your family's starting notes

Our most important priorities

What helps our family member feel comfortable and communicate?

Questions about services, scheduling, coverage, or caregiver involvement

Before you leave the intake conversation

Know who to contact, which documents are still needed, what the next step is, and when to follow up. Ask for an explanation whenever a recommendation or term is unclear.

ELNC contact _____ **Next step / follow-up** _____

Learn more: earlylens.org/Contacts/ | earlylens.org