

COVID-19 UPDATES

To our ABRITE families, families considering our services, and our collaborative partners,

We hope that you and your families are remaining healthy and safe during this unprecedented period. As we approach the final days of 2020, we have spent time as a team reflecting on the successes and challenges that we experienced this year in the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic. We remain committed to monitoring the health and safety guidelines put forth by the CDC as well as other federal, state, and local authorities. We are dedicated to implementing their recommendations and our extensive internal protocols designed to promote the safety of our learners, their families, and the ABRITE team in each of our locations.

We continue to provide medically necessary services to our insurance funded learners and their families in homes as well as in our center in Santa Cruz County. We have a number of safety guidelines in place including but not limited to mask wearing, social distancing, protocols for sanitization and handwashing. We provide ongoing education to our team and the individuals we serve related to safe behaviors. We also continue to offer telepractice services. The diligences of our team in the further development of telepractice service delivery, training of our team, and the invaluable feedback and collaboration with families has resulted in tremendous progress for the learners that we have served in this model. As such we shared our tools and some of the outcomes achieved in a recent publication in effort to support others navigating telepractice services (link to be added).

We continue to work with learners that ABRITE previously provided supports to on public school campuses using telepractice and working collaboratively with the learners' IEP teams. Learners receiving services through our nonpublic agency (NPA) are receiving individualized supports for 5 or more hours, Monday-Friday, via a program developed in collaboration with our school district partners. Our model for distance educational supports was published in June of 2020 (see https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7427266/pdf/40617_2020_Article_476.pdf). As campuses reopen to small cohorts and hybrid models in 2021, we look forward to providing individualized supports to our learners on their school campuses once again.

Our nonpublic school, Brite Horizons, began serving students on campus under small cohort guidance in early June and we continue to have our most vulnerable students at the site. Students participating in our distance education program, have all been provided with the option of full school day, in home support via their behavior interventionist. Parents/guardians have selected either in home support or distance individualized support based on their family's needs. All students have also received live distance instruction and support from our team of educational specialists and special service providers. This is anticipated to remain the same as we navigate the first semester of 2021.

We look forward to this next year and to standing strong together in the presence of ever changing and evolving conditions. This year has been filled with challenges and yet the outcomes and progress of our learners along with the strength our families, and teams have been a testament to what can be achieved with collaboration, commitment, and caring well for one another.

With compassion and wishes for health and safety,
Janice Frederick & Ginger Raabe, Directors of ABRITE and Brite Horizons