

**Jennifer Rose Crawford MS.Ed, BCaBA**  
**BIO**

The Learning Lane  
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Jennifer Crawford, MS .Ed, BCaBA, is the founder and owner of The Learning Lane where she is an Autism Educator.

Jennifer's accomplishments include: Texas Autism Rule Study Committee; NHC-ASA Vice President, Texas; Unlocking Autism Representative; Virginia Autism Teacher of the Year 2003; Autism Arts Connection Essay Winner 2003;

TheLearning Lane also brings in professional speakers to help educate the community on Autism. Our lists of speakers have been: Dr. Carbone, Dr. Sundberg, Dr. Partington, Nancy Kauffman, Tamara Kasper, Kelle Wood, Dr. James Ball.

Jennifer believes by using the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, positive and meaningful learning can take place. Autism education is truly her life's passion. Jennifer lives in Montgomery County, Texas with her husband and two children.

**Jennifer Rose Crawford MS.Ed, BCaBA**

**EDUCATION:**

**Graduate Institution,**

Nova South Eastern University, Jacksonville, FL  
Masters of Science in Exceptional Education with an emphasis on autism.  
April 2005.

**Undergraduate Institution,**

Sam Houston State University. Huntsville, TX  
Bachelor of Science in Academic Studies (Elementary Education) with a minor in Speech Communication.  
Graduation Date: May 1998.

**LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION:**

Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst™ (BCaBA®)  
State of Texas Certified Teacher

## **PROFESSIONAL/RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:**

2008 – Present

### **The Learning Lane ABA Preschool Center, The Woodlands, TX Founder and Owner**

*Serve children ages 2-7 diagnosed with developmental disabilities in our day treatment program*

*Consult with parents to implement intensive toilet training programs*

*Complete skills assessments such as ABLLS*

*Train staff and parents to implement Applied Behavior Analysis procedures*

2006 – 2008

### **The Learning Lane – Founder and Owner, The Woodlands, TX Autism Educator**

*In home therapy with children diagnosed with autism/PDD using applied behavior analysis teaching in the child's home and at school.*

*Implementing behavior programs tailored to the child's specific needs.*

*Provide extensive parent and therapist training, collection and analysis of data collection in home program setting.*

2006 –2007

### **School District Consultation**

*Consultation providing autism hands on training for teachers and paraprofessionals.*

2002 – 2004

### **Spiritos School, Midlothian, VA.**

#### **Cofounder and Assistant Director and Lead Teacher**

*Develop IEP's and ABA programs for children with Autism.*

*Shadowed Autistic children in a public school setting.*

*Train and supervise staff in the daily school setting.*

2001 – 2002

### **ABA Clinic. Houston, TX**

#### **ABA Therapist and play date Teacher**

*Instruct students in a Walden Zone Teaching Style for play dates.*

*Develop and write curriculum for language delayed children.*

*Provided one – on – one ABA therapy.*

1999 - 2001

### **Twin Creeks Middle School, Spring ISD. Spring, TX**

#### **Speech & Debate Teacher**

*Instructed students in grades 6, 7, 8 in Speech classes.*

*Lead a 25-member Speech team to first place competitions.*

*Advised 120 member of National Junior Honor Society in monthly meetings and activities, including a blood drive and food drive.*

*Worked cooperatively with administrations, staff, and parent in the execution of extra curricular activities.*

*KEYSS facilitator for the district on social skills for students.*

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

*Practical Ways of Implementing ABA*  
TAP- VA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

*The ABLLS: What, Why, and How to use it with children on the Autism Spectrum*  
Commonwealth of Autism Virginia Conference

*Shadowing – What is it?*  
Spiritos School Staff Development

*The Development of Play and Books for Teaching*  
S.N.A.P. – Virginia Autism Parent Support Group

*The Fundamentals of Applied Behavior Analysis*  
The Joy Ministry Conference- Graceview Tomball Church

*Playdates for Children with Autism*  
Texas Autism Support group

Depelchin Autism Series 2010

Hosted Jim Ball Conference November 2010

Presentation of ABLLS Training for Huntsville School District Region 6 2011

Hosted and presented “ABA Educators Clinic” at St. Lukes, The Woodlands 2011

Presentation of “Motivate Me ..123” Texas State Autism Conference October 2011

Hosted Brian Awata Conference, April 2012

**GRANTS/AWARDS:**

TXABA 2005 Scholarship Conference Winner

The Autism Program Teacher of the Year, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003

Autism Arts Conference Connection 2003 Essay Winner

Publications; "That's Life with Autism" Tales and Tips for Families with Autism

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

Autism Society of America Member

National Associate of Behavior Analyst Member

Texas Association of Behavior Analyst Member

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ VOLUNTEER WORK:**

Governor Rick Perry, SB 882 AUTISM RULE-STUDY COMMITTEE

NHC-ASA – Vice President

Commonwealth of Autism Virginia Advisory Committee

Unlocking Autism State Representative

Exert by **Jennifer Crawford** from

## **“That’s Life With Autism” Tales and Tips for Families with Autism**

Edited by Donna Satterlee Ross and Kelly Ann Jolly

Five years ago I was teaching Speech and Debate in a public school when a parent informed me that she wanted to enroll her son--who had Asperger’s Syndrome-- in my class. I didn’t hesitate to accept him, and he became an involved participant in my class. Something about him made me take a liking to him and made me curious to learn more about his disorder.

When I saw an episode of *Nightline* featuring autism and ABA I said to my husband, “Can you give me a year to be successful doing that?” He agreed and I quit my full-time position with to work 20 hours a week with a drastic reduction in salary. My goal was to learn all there was to know about ABA from the ground up. The experiment was a successful and ultimately I ended up co-founding an ABA based school in Virginia.

From early on other professionals encouraged my progress because the principles and practice of ABA seemed to come naturally. Quickly my gift became my passion. I love seeing the “Eureka...I got it!” look in the kids eyes when they master a new concept and everything connects. My favorite part is the first time a completely non-verbal child laughs. That’s the kind of thing that makes me cry in the car on the way home at the end of the day. The small successes and breakthroughs make all the struggles and hours of repetition worthwhile.

My approach is to treat each child as an individual and consider the whole child rather than compartmentalizing specific needs. Using ABA as the core, I bring in things like sensory integration techniques and music in as necessary. The biggest challenge for me is dealing with occasional feelings of disappointment that occur when a particular child doesn’t achieve something I want so much for them to accomplish. I know I expect a lot from them, and high expectations can’t always be reached—but that doesn’t stop me from trying. Basically, my expectations make me work harder to find different ways to teach something if a child just doesn’t get it.

Families who are best able to cope with the frustrations of having a child with a developmental disorder are those who are able to live in the moment. The ones who are always looking ahead and wondering “will my child ever be able to do this or that?” are continually frustrated and tend to get stuck in a “why me?” mentality. Parents who are able to look at their child and accept what their current needs are and help the child to work on what needs to improve in the present are those that are most successful. If a child is 3 years old don’t get bogged down with what he or she will be capable of at age 12 or 20, doing that is counterproductive. Some families seem to want and expect their children to change overnight. In the case of autism there is no magic bullet, just a lot of effort and hard work. These families get frustrated with a particular method and switch philosophies at the drop of a dime. Since one of the biggest developmental needs of children with autism and Asperger’s is consistency, my advice to parents out there is to do your research, choose a plan of action, hire the best people you can and then have the faith to let it go. Don’t overanalyze the situation, make a decision and get involved in making whatever you choose successful.

I've worked in several states and the one thing I've noticed is availability and access to resources varies. Here in Texas, we are ranked 48<sup>th</sup> or 49<sup>th</sup> in funding for special education, but it still matters where you live and what school attend. Frankly, it's the parents themselves that can make the most difference. When a group of parents unite and push and fight to make changes or receive a new service they have tremendous power to make a lasting difference for all children involved.

**Jennifer's Advice to Parents:**

Do what you know is best for your child.

Even if "they" have tons of degrees, don't be scared or intimidated into doing something you are not comfortable with for you or your family.