



10 MUST-ASK QUESTIONS When Interviewing ABA Providers

When you're seeking an ABA provider for your child, it's important to ask the right questions to ensure they're qualified and a good fit for your family. Use this guide to help you select the right one who can support your family in navigating autism.

- 1. Is the ABA practitioner board certified?**
 - » An ABA program should be developed by a professional with an appropriate credential, like certification by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®), the oldest and largest certification body for behavior analysts. In most U.S. states, individual ABA practitioners also must be licensed.
 - » Ask about their certification and licensure. Visit [bacb.org](https://www.bacb.org) to confirm credentialing, review requirements, and more.
- 2. Is a behavior analyst providing adequate supervision to the behavior technicians implementing the treatment plan?**
 - » ABA treatment plans are designed by behavior analysts, but are typically implemented by behavior technicians. Ask about training and supervision of the behavior technicians. How much hands-on guidance do they get? A good rule of thumb is that 10-20% of a child's ABA hours delivered by a technician should be supervised by a behavior analyst.
 - » Ask to meet the program director. Review their credentials and work experience.
- 3. What does the ABA practitioner's training and experience look like?**
 - » What do they know about child development? How many children have they worked with who are similar in age or development to your child? What's their experience collaborating with a child's parents and other care team members, like speech, physical, or occupational therapists?
 - » Ask for a resume.
- 4. Are current families pleased with their care?**
 - » Families familiar with the ABA practitioner have firsthand experience.
 - » Ask for references. Reach out to a few current (and past) clients and ask about their experiences.

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5. **What does an ABA session with the provider look like?**
 - » Seeing ABA in action is the best way to understand how it works.
 - » If possible, observe an ABA session firsthand. If it's an autism center or clinic, ask to take a tour. Or ask current families about the details of a typical session with their child.
6. **Will my child's treatment plan look the same as another child's plan?**
 - » Strong ABA treatment plans are highly individualized—the opposite of “one size fits all.” No two treatment plans should look alike.
 - » Ask how the provider will identify goals and measure success specific to your child's unique strengths and autism-related challenges.
7. **What will the provider use to create my child's treatment plan?**
 - » Family goals and preferences, direct observation, and insights from the people who know your child best are essential to an individualized treatment plan.
 - » Ask how the provider combines these with proven ABA strategies to build, and consistently re-assess, your child's plan. How do they create a timeline for mastering skills and reducing ABA treatment hours?
8. **How much will the provider interact with you and your family?**
 - » The most positive provider-child-family relationships are true partnerships.
 - » Ask how the provider builds time with you into your child's plan and how available they are if you need them.
9. **What are the provider's family training practices?**
 - » Continuing your child's learning strategies at home, in school, and in the community is key to helping them master new skills.
 - » Ask how the provider will help you and your family manage teaching practices at home and include them in your daily routines.
10. **What practice guidelines does the provider use?**
 - » The accepted industry standard for best practices is the CASP ABA Practice Guidelines (casproviders.org/asd-guidelines).
 - » Ask what guidelines the provider uses as a roadmap for services. Do they follow industry best practices?



Visit TheSpectrum.org for helpful ABA resources and to hear candid conversations between parents of children with autism, autism service providers, BCBAs, and other autism experts.