

Choosing an ABA Company

Choosing an ABA (Applied Behavioral Analysis) company can feel overwhelming. Consider the information below as you look to choose a company. Talk to the child's doctor if you have questions or concerns.

	Home Based ABA Therapy	Clinic Based ABA Therapy
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child will complete skills in their natural environment. Opportunities for parents/legal guardians to observe and practice skills outside of therapy. Fewer changes in locations during the day (may be good for those going to school full-time). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child will be able to practice social skills. Controlled environment. Could be a school-like environment, depending on the clinic. More staff are available to help in a crisis situation. BCBA® (Board Certified Behavioral Analyst®) staff are on site.
What to Look For	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers who can offer consistent services. Low staff turnover. Hours that line up with your schedule. Programs that will benefit your child's growth based on current needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers who can offer consistent services. Low staff turnover. Hours that line up with your schedule. Programs that will benefit your child's growth based on current needs. Windows on therapy room doors.

Questions to Ask Yourself When Choosing ABA Therapy

- **Are you able to commit to 6 months or more of driving the child somewhere? Do you have family to help you with transportation, if needed?**
 - Clinic therapy involves driving the child back and forth every day, possibly during work hours.
 - Driving to a clinic takes a toll and is difficult for one person to do.
 - If you cannot do this, in home services may be best.
- **Do you have space at home that is low traffic and free of major distractions?**
 - If you do not, clinic therapy may be better.
- **Are you looking for after school services?**
 - Some clinics offer in home/clinic based after school services.
- **Is the child well-behaved in school but having problems at home?**
 - Home based services may be best.
- **Does the child have social skills deficits or trouble working with peers?**
 - Clinic therapy may be better if they do.
- **Do you want to be present for all sessions?**
 - Clinics normally do not allow this, but in home therapy sometimes does.

Question to Ask the ABA Company

- How often do I get to come in for parent training?
- How many kids will my BCBA® have on their caseload? (8 to 12 is recommended)
- What kind of social skills opportunities will the child get throughout the day?
- How often will the child/child's team be supervised by the BCBA? (recommended around 20% of hours spent in therapy)
- Does the program have speech therapy, physical therapy (PT), or occupational therapy (OT) with the ABA therapy?
- How does the ABA program communicate with the child's primary doctor (PCP)?
- Are there ongoing opportunities for staff professional development?
- What training do the ABA therapists get before starting?
- Will there be other kids to interact with that are on the same level?

