

Caregiver Interview to Review ABA program

This interview is designed to be used by a medical provider who is talking with a caregiver about a child's ABA program.

- **Is your child's program supervisor a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and a licensed behavior analyst in your state?**
 - Program supervisors should have required state (if applicable) and national credentials
 - Program supervisors should have experience working with people who have similar needs the child (e.g. age group, diagnosis, etc.)
 - Lack of professional credentials or lack of experience working with the child's specific age group or diagnosis would be *a red flag*
- **How often is the BCBA directly working with or supervising staff working with your child?**
 - Weekly supervision of staff with child (not just off site meetings) is ideal
 - Minimal supervision would occur once every 2 weeks
 - Once a month or less would be a *red flag*
- **Tell me about your child's current programming and goals.**
 - Ideally, caregivers should be able to articulate most of their child's current goals and how they are progressing
 - Minimally they should know some general goals
 - If parent is unable to answer questions about programming that is *a red flag*
- **Do your child's goals reflect your priorities for him/ her?**
 - Ideally a parent feels that they were part of the goal development process, and their values were incorporated
 - Minimally a parent agrees with the goals even if they aren't exactly matched to their priorities
 - If the parent shares that the child's goals do not match the family's priorities or the goals lack social significance to the family this would be a *red flag*
- **Do the interventionists working with your family act professionally and treat your family with respect?**
 - Therapists should be timely, dress appropriately, limit cell phone usage, and engage with the child for the majority of the session. If in the home, they should respect house rules
 - If the parent notices frequent cell phone use, talking about other clients, unprofessional language, frequently late to sessions, limited engagement with child these would be *red flags and worth encouraging the family to communicate their concerns to the clinical director.*
- **How often are you able to observe therapy sessions?**
 - Ideally, caregivers should be invited and encouraged to observe therapy sessions whenever they want and are able to attend.

- Minimally, caregivers should be able to observe sessions with some advance notice
 - If caregivers report they are not allowed to observe therapy sessions this would be a *red flag*
- **Does your child seem willing and happy to work with the professionals serving your family?**
 - Ideally, child goes willingly into sessions
 - Minimally, episodes of challenging behavior are brief and well explained
 - If the child actively avoids going into sessions or is upset most sessions this would be a *red flag, and the family should be encouraged to investigate more closely where the challenge is.*
- **Tell me about some skills your child has generalized from therapy to your daily life.**
 - Ideally, parents should be able to share a few skills they have seen improvement within their daily life (e.g. more communication, improvement in any behavioral challenges, increased ability to participate in daily routines, adaptive behavior).
 - Minimally, the parent should be able to describe some skills their child is working toward that they think will improve some of these areas.
 - If the family doesn't feel or know if any skills being taught will impact the child's daily life this would be a *red flag*.
- **Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's care?**
 - If parents are not satisfied with their care, encourage them to call around to other agencies to see if they can find a better fit for their family.
 - Encourage them to talk with other families and/ or advocacy groups to see if they can learn about agencies that match their values and needs.