

Caregiver Questions for ABA Providers

1. **Are your program supervisors Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and State Licensed Behavior Analysts (if applicable)?**
 - a. Program supervisors should have required state and national credentials that designate the minimum competency to provide services.
2. **Do your BCBAs have specific training and experience working with children under 5 years old? If so, what does that look like?**
 - a. BCBAs working with your child should have specific training and experience working with young children diagnosed with autism. It's particularly important that they understand child development so they can teach your child skills that are appropriate for their age.
3. **Can I expect my child to have consistent therapists during his/ her time in your program?**
 - a. Staff turnover is important to ask about. High rates of turnover can be disruptive to your child's program and impact their learning.
4. **How often is the BCBA working directly with or supervising my child or their RBTs?**
 - a. Your child's BCBA should ideally work with you child or their team at least one time per week.
5. **Can caregivers observe treatment sessions at any time? Why or why not?**
 - a. As a caregiver, you should have free access to observe your child's treatment at any time.
6. **How do BCBAs decide what the goals are appropriate for my child's program?**
 - a. BCBAs should be using assessment measures and conversations with caregivers to match a child's goals with family priorities.
7. **How often is a BCBA updating my child's goals? What data are they reviewing?**
 - a. Frequent program updates concurrent with child progress are important to ensure your child is learning at an optimal rate during ABA sessions.
8. **How often does the BCBA meet with caregivers to provide a program update, and ensure caregivers are learning strategies to use at home?**
 - a. BCBAs should meet with caregivers at least once per month to discuss child progress and provide strategies that the caregivers can use at home to help facilitate generalization.
9. **How do BCBAs and RBTs respond if my child is upset or frustrated?**
 - a. This can obviously be a tricky question to answer, as it's situation dependent. However, there are generally acceptable approaches when working with a young child who is upset or frustrated. Two examples are:
 1. Help them work through the upsetting/frustrating event. This usually looks like a therapist being supportive and adapting the task to help your child be successful. This may include guiding your child's with prompts if they indicate they need help finishing an activity. This also includes providing support and encouragement for trying, even if a task needs to be adapted.
 2. Help them calm down. Sometimes, young children get very upset and emotional, cannot proceed with an activity, even with help. At this point, the best option is to help them calm down, so they can try the activity again another time and be successful.