

## How do I Decide on a Provider?!

Finding providers can be difficult let alone finding the right provider. First, tap into known resources: other parents, schools, parent support forums/agencies. That should provide you with some options to start with. But don't forget to consider the professional resources as well.

Behavior Analysts are certified by a Board which also helps you to 'find a certificant'. To do so, just go to their website ([www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)). Also, check out and see if your state has a behavior analytic organization. You can do a google search (usually your state's name and 'association for behavior analysis') or you can go to the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) website [www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org) and in the 'SELECT AREA OF INTEREST' dropdown box, select chapters. Here you will find a list of all U.S.A chapters. See if your state is there. One more place you can try is the Association for Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA) at [www.apbahome.net/affiliates](http://www.apbahome.net/affiliates). This will provide you with a list of all of the state associations that are affiliated with APBA. These chapters/affiliates will typically support parents in learning more about the providers available in their area.

Once you have found a few possible providers you would like to look into, give them a call to get some basic information: do they have openings, do they take your insurance, is there a co-pay, how many staff do they have, who typically provides services (certified or non-certified staff), will they come to your home or are they center-based, what is your expected level of involvement (remember treatment works better when you're involved) etc.

Once the logistical questions are figured out, and if you're feeling good about the company, set up a "meet and greet".

### WHAT IS A MEET AND GREET?

A meet in greet is a free meeting that you set up with a provider to discuss your goals for your child as well as their goals. It's also a chance to see how your child interacts with the company's therapists. It is so important to establish a good working relationship and open communication from the start. Everyone and every child reacts different to different people.

### WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I BE ASKING THE ABA PROVIDER?

- 1.) Are you a Board Certified Behavior Analyst or are you supervised by a BCBA?
- 2.) Do you take data to chart my child's progress and will I receive copies?
- 3.) Do you provide home based therapy or clinical based?
- 4.) If you are unsure about what a BCBA is ask them what they do and why they do it!! It is their job to know the answers!
- 5.) Does your company use non-certified tutors and if so what are their minimum qualifications? For Example BCS (behavioral consultation services) require a Bachelor's in Special Ed. or Psychology or closely related field.
- 6.) How are my benefits being used? Certified Analysts are paid at a higher rate and necessary for supervising quality programs carried out by non-certified professionals. Also more hours may be available if you use both a tutor and a Certified Analyst than if you only use a BCBA/BCaBA (KEY NOTE: Remember that a BCaBA cannot practice without supervision from a BCBA)
- 7.) Will my child need verbal behavior programs or problem behavior reduction?
- 8.) How many hours a week will best benefit my child?
- 9.) What types of assessment & treatment protocols are used? For instance some use the VB-MAPP by Mark Sundberg
- 10.) What is my role in my child's therapy and how can I participate? It is imperative you learn how to teach your child so ABA can be used 24/7 to teach skills!

These questions are great, and it is important to remember that you are hiring them! So feel free to ask as many questions as possible. Many of these questions were provided by a BCBA so ASK!! No question is a bad question!!