



How to Choose the Right ABA Agency

Why Choosing the Right ABA Agency Matters

Choosing the right ABA agency for your child is a big decision. This guide provides a simple checklist, rating system, and space for notes to help you compare options.

Use the checklist to evaluate each agency, rate them based on how important each factor is to you, and become aware of any red flags that could signal serious concerns.

Checklist:

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1. Was the agency founded with care by certified BCBAs, rather than built purely as a business venture?

Yes

No

Rate: 1 2 3 4 5

2. Does the agency take the time to listen to you, learn about your child, and offer personalized therapy plans based on your child's unique needs?

Yes

No

Rate: 1 2 3 4 5

3. Are the therapists flexible with scheduling?

Yes

No

Rate: 1 2 3 4 5

4. Is the Agency flexible in where they provide therapy in-home/community/school/virtual/in-center therapy options?

Yes

No

Rate: 1 2 3 4 5

5. Does the agency have experience working with educators for coordinated care?

Yes

No

Rate: 1 2 3 4 5

6. Are the therapists sleep-certified or knowledgeable about sleep challenges related to ASD?

Yes

No

Rate: 1 2 3 4 5

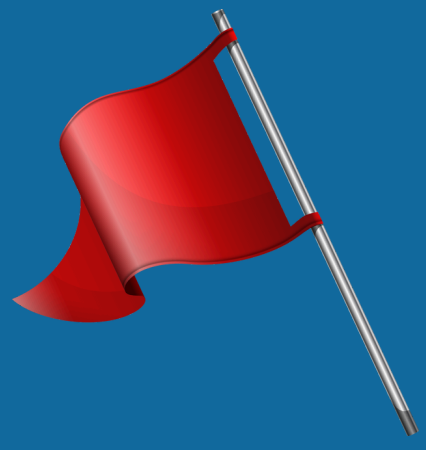
7. Does the agency offer a clear roadmap for reducing or completing therapy?

Yes

No

Rate: 1 2 3 4 5

Red Flags to Watch For



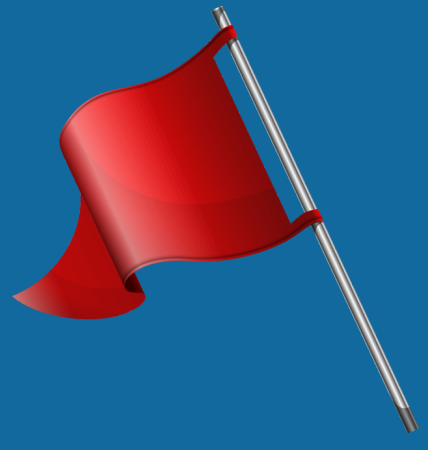
1. Rigid Therapy Schedules Without Flexibility

Agencies that push a strict 40-hour therapy schedule regardless of your child's individual needs may not be prioritizing personalized care. If an agency insists on hours that feel excessive or doesn't listen to your input about what's best for your child, this is a red flag.



2. No Transparency on Therapist Qualifications

If an agency is vague or unwilling to provide clear information about the qualifications of their therapists (e.g., BCBA credentials or certifications related to autism care), this could indicate a lack of experienced professionals.



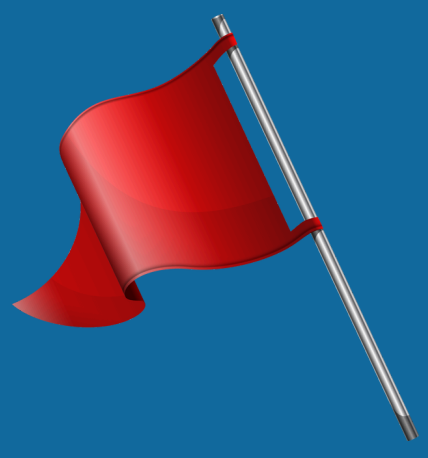
3. High Staff Turnover

A revolving door of therapists can disrupt your child's progress. If an agency frequently changes therapists or has high staff turnover, it may indicate management issues or a less stable working environment, which can negatively affect the consistency of your child's care.



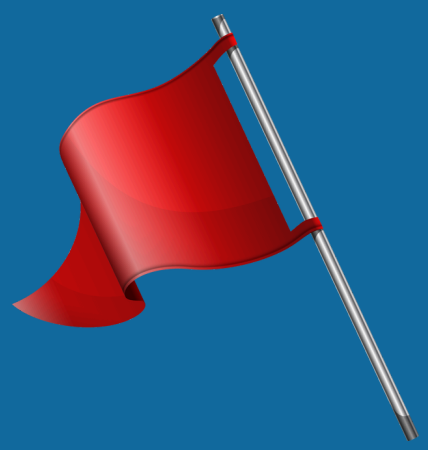
4. Pressure to Increase Therapy Hours Without Clear Justification

Be wary of agencies that pressure you to increase therapy hours, especially if they cannot provide specific, goal-based reasons for the additional time. Pushing for more hours without tying them to your child's progress may be more about profit than progress.



5. Lack of Communication or Collaboration

If an agency doesn't involve you in regular updates or doesn't communicate openly about your child's progress, it's a warning sign. Quality agencies should collaborate with you and your child's educational team, ensuring everyone is aligned on goals and strategies.




6. No Plan for Reducing Therapy Over Time

A red flag is when an agency doesn't provide a clear roadmap for reducing therapy as your child progresses. If there's no discussion about scaling back therapy as milestones are achieved, it could indicate a focus on keeping children in therapy for financial gain rather than promoting long-term independence.

Conclusion: Making the Right Choice

Choosing the right ABA agency is about finding a team that truly understands and supports your child's unique needs. By using this checklist, rating the important factors, and watching out for red flags, you can make an informed decision that sets your child up for success. Remember, the right agency will be flexible, transparent, and focused on your child's progress, always working with you to create the best path forward.

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