

10 Questions to Ask Any ABA Clinic

A bring-on-tour worksheet. You'll probably tour a clinic exactly once before deciding — ask every provider the same ten questions, take notes, and compare answers side by side. Any clinic worth choosing will be glad you asked.

1. How many clients does each BCBA supervise?

A good answer sounds like: a specific number and a caseload cap — not “it varies.”

2. How much time will the BCBA actually spend with my child each week?

A good answer sounds like: a real number of supervision hours, with some of it direct — in the room, not just reviewing data.

3. What happens when my child says no?

A good answer sounds like: pausing, changing the activity, reading your child's signals — not just “working through” refusal.

4. How do you decide what goals to work on?

A good answer sounds like: a named assessment tool (like the VB-MAPP or ABLLS-R) plus your priorities as a parent.

5. How will I see my child's progress?

A good answer sounds like: a scheduled review of real graphs, together. “You can ask anytime” is not a system.

6. What's my role as a parent?

A good answer sounds like: regular, coached parent training built into the schedule — not “we handle everything.”

7. What's your staff turnover like, and how do you support RBTs?

A good answer sounds like: honesty that turnover exists, plus specifics — pay, mentorship, supervision, realistic schedules.

8. How do you handle challenging behavior, including restraint?

A good answer sounds like: prevention first, understanding why the behavior happens, and a clear written policy they'll share.

9. How will you work with my child's speech therapist, OT, school, and doctor?

A good answer sounds like: specific ways they coordinate, and how often — not just “we're open to that.”

10. What does “graduating” from ABA look like here?

A good answer sounds like: a real plan to fade hours and support the move to school or fewer services.

Red flags, briefly

- Guaranteed outcomes or “recovery” language. Nobody can promise that honestly.
- Every child gets 40 hours, regardless of assessment. Hours should follow need.
- You're discouraged from observing sessions. You should be welcome, within reasonable structure.
- Nobody can name the assessment tools they use.

How to ask without feeling awkward: “We're comparing a few providers and asking everyone the same questions — do you have ten minutes?” The clinic that answers plainly, admits trade-offs, and doesn't flinch at questions 3 or 8 is telling you who they are.