

Referral

If you feel that your child is not meeting developmental milestones or have other concerns you can get a referral for assessment or formal assessment through your child's primary care physician or other local state agency.

Diagnosis

When seeking a diagnosis for your child you have a few options:

- Locate a diagnosing provider who accepts your child's insurance.
- Locate a program or agency that can assist in funding or provide at no cost.
- Pay out of pocket (determine out of pocket costs first)

Keep in mind, diagnosis appointments can take more than one day to complete.

After scheduling and completing assessments

Following the assessment process review the assessment carefully for inaccuracies, typos and diagnosis information. Following that, check that there is a referral for ABA services included in the diagnosis if your child is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. If your child has Medicaid, ensure that there is an FA-11F sheet included (Medicaid specific diagnosis option)

Identifying the Right Provider

Locating the "right" ABA provider for your child can feel like an overwhelming task. There are always a lot of factors to consider. In this section we will review some of the things to consider that are not typically discussed immediately after your child's diagnosis

Does your child have insurance coverage?

If your child does not have insurance or does not have ABA coverage please consider applying to Nevada Medicaid or to local state agencies and organizations for funding po

- Autism Treatment Assistance Program - Number
- Nevada Early Intervention Services - Number

If your child **does** have insurance, please review the sections below.

Identifying options that work with your insurance.

Some of the things to consider when looking for an ABA provider are not always what we accept. Often, we look at reviews and recommendations before we look at anything else. In the state of Nevada there are a few more things to consider before deciding on a well-reviewed provider.

While they are discussed in more detail below, they are:

- ABA Coverage
- Insurance Benefits
- Provider Options

Does your child's insurance cover Applied Behavioral Analysis?

To determine whether your child's able to access ABA through their insurance you will need to review your child's health insurance coverage. This may require you to access their website or to contact the number on the back of their insurance card.

Note: Please be specific that is **Applied Behavioral Analysis or ABA** and *not* Outpatient Mental Health. The individuals working at insurance companies are not always aware of the difference in services and hear "behavioral" and automatically assume that you are referring to mental health services.

What your insurance coverage is

When reviewing whether services are covered it is also important to determine what the coverage is if it is covered.

Things to note are:

- Deductible
- Maximum Out of Pocket
- Co-Pay or Co-Insurance
- Caps on Services

Identifying providers who can work with your child.

Once you determine insurance coverage you will need to identify ABA providers in your area that accepts your child's insurance. Please refer to your insurance's provider network for options.

Things to consider when deciding on a provider.

Location of Services:

ABA services can occur within the child's home environment or at a clinic setting. Both are great options, but there are things to consider when determining which format works best for the child. For both options, the main consideration should be the living arrangements and how it will impact the child's day to day.

Some pros and cons for each option are below, but each household is unique, and the guardian will have to make the decision that best works for their family.

In Home

The service provider comes to the child’s home to provide one on one and supervision.

Pros	Cons
In a location most familiar to the child.	Can be difficult to separate the learning environment from the home environment.
Reduced transportation time.	Having increased numbers of individuals in the home.
Easier for guardian to observe sessions or behaviors at any time.	Increased behaviors can be disruptive to other things happening in the household.
Skills are generalized across home environment first.	Can be difficult to allow behaviors to continue for ABA staff to address on their own.

In Clinic

The child is transported to the service provider through the guardian’s method of transportation and services are provided at the provider’s place of business.

Pros	Cons
Services occur outside of the home separating the learning environment from the home environment.	Increased transportation times.
Increased possibility of social interactions with other learners.	May take more time to generalize learned skills to the home.
Learning setting more closely resembles the educational setting of a school.	Behaviors in the home setting may look different than those at the clinic.
Depending on clinic policy it may be possible to run errands while session is in.	May schedule to observe sessions directly with the clinic.

Expected Insurance Changes:

For children who are expected to have an insurance change due to foreseen changes it is a good idea to consider options that accept multiple insurance or funding types. It is not necessary, though.

Waitlists:

Providers can sometimes have waitlists for services due to increased desire for ABA services in the state of Nevada. If this is the case it is important to still put your child on their waitlist for when services are available. Additionally, keep note of which providers your child is on a waitlist and call to check in periodically.

Please update providers if there is a change in number, address, or insurance.

Scheduling:

When considering your child's schedule always consider what is currently and possible. We all want is best for your child, but promising things that do not work for your family or make your life more stressful can be difficult. Be up front about scheduling options, potential issues (e.g., custody arrangements, after school clubs, etc.) and your child's day to day schedule during those times.

Questions to ask providers:

The Indiana University of Bloomington's Indiana Institute on Disability and Community has a comprehensive list of questions to consider when seeking an ABA provider that suits your child's needs you can find it [here](https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca/articles/where-and-how-to-find-an-aba-provider-or-center.html) (link: <https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca/articles/where-and-how-to-find-an-aba-provider-or-center.html>).

Refer to local reviews and suggestions:

Reviewing the experiences of others is always prudent, but not always reflective of the experiences of everyone who has received services there. Be sure to check multiple sources and ask questions if you have concerns.