

Small Steps ABA Therapist Selection Toolkit

Welcome to your Small Steps Big Dreams ABA Therapist Selection Toolkit. We know choosing the right therapist can feel daunting—that's why we created this handy toolkit packed with everything Dubai parents need for a confident, stress-free decision. Use these checklists and question lists when researching, visiting, and comparing centers.

1. ABA Center Evaluation Checklist

Use this checklist on your facility visits to ensure you see the details that matter most.

- ☐ DHA license verification (ask to view license)
- ☐ BCBA oversight (confirm BCBA credentials and supervision hours)
- ☐ RBT/ABAT staff under BCBA supervision (minimum 5% of service hours)
- ☐ At least 3 years' experience working with children with autism
- ☐ Bilingual staff (English/Arabic) if needed for your family
- ☐ Clean, organized, child-friendly environment
- ☐ Sensory-friendly design (lighting, noise control, equipment)
- ☐ Visible data collection (charts, digital tracking, session notes)
- ☐ Parent observation area or live feed option
- ☐ Positive reinforcement methods (stickers, tokens, praise)
- ☐ Transparent fee schedule and written contract
- ☐ Clear policies for missed sessions and make-ups
- ☐ Parent training or coaching opportunities
- ☐ Coordination with schools and other therapists
- ☐ Low staff turnover and ongoing professional development
- ☐ Cultural sensitivity (respect for traditions, Ramadan adjustments)

2. Complete Questions to Ask

Keep this list handy—print it or save it on your phone—to get straight answers.

Program Design

1. How will you assess my child's current abilities and set goals?
2. What is your approach to individualizing therapy sessions?
3. How often do you review and adjust the treatment plan?

Staffing & Supervision

4. Who will be my child's primary therapist, and what are their credentials?
5. How often does a BCBA supervise sessions?
6. What training do you provide to new staff members?

Progress Tracking

7. What data do you collect, and how do you share progress reports?
8. How do you handle situations when goals aren't being met?
9. Can I observe sessions live or via recording?

Parent Involvement

10. What role do parents play in reinforcing skills at home?
11. Do you offer parent training workshops or one-on-one coaching?
12. How often will we meet to discuss my child's progress?

Logistics & Policies

13. What are your scheduling options and availability?
14. What is your policy on missed sessions and make-ups?
15. How do you handle billing, insurance claims, and reimbursements?

Cultural & Practical Considerations

16. How do you ensure cultural sensitivity in your programs?
17. Do you have bilingual therapists for English and Arabic support?
18. What adjustments do you make during Ramadan and local holidays?

3. Progress Tracking Forms

Use these simple templates at home to record daily skill practice and monitor progress between sessions.

Date	Skill Practiced	Session Notes	Next Steps
DD/MM/YYYY	"Say 'please'"	Achieved 4/5 trials	Increase prompts to 3/5 trials

DD/MM/YYYY	"Follow two-step directions"	Achieved 3/5 trials	Introduce a new two-step task
DD/MM/YYYY	"Eye contact for 5 seconds"	Achieved 2/5 trials	Use favorite toy to prompt

Thank you for choosing Small Steps Big Dreams for your ABA journey. We're here to support your family every step of the way. If you have any questions while using this toolkit—or if you're ready to see our center in action—reach out anytime. Let's make small steps together that lead to big dreams!

Small Steps Big Dreams - Supporting Dubai families with trusted, compassionate ABA therapy.