

Questions to Guide the Selection of Service Providers

As you seek out the most qualified and appropriate individual or company to provide services to your family member or client(s) with behavioral support needs, we suggest you consider the following questions:

1. Does the professional have the appropriate training, knowledge, and skills?
 - a. Does the person have training in positive behavior support (PBS)?
 - b. Does the person have certification in behavior analysis and/or PBS?
 - c. Does the person have relevant training in PBS from another discipline (e.g., clinical psychology, social work, education)?
 - d. If the person does not have the training to work independently, will oversight be provided?
2. Does the professional have experience with people with similar needs (e.g., age, abilities and disabilities)?
3. Does the professional have experience working in the setting(s) in which support is needed? This might include homes, schools, or community settings.
4. Does the professional engage caregivers in goal setting, assessment, intervention design, plan implementation, and evaluation of services?
5. Are the services the professional is providing aligned with the principles of PBS:
 - a. define broad goals of intervention and behaviors of concern in observable terms
 - b. conduct a comprehensive assessment, including interviews and observations, in order to identify the antecedents (triggers) and functions (consequences) of people's behavior
 - c. design and support implementation of individualized behavioral interventions based on the principles of applied behavior analysis that include strategies to...
 - i. prevent problems/prompt positive behavior
 - ii. teach people appropriate replacement skills
 - iii. manage consequences (e.g., reactions) to behavior
 - d. monitor outcomes, including progress on specific behaviors and quality of life changes
6. Does the professional provide specific written resources (e.g., behavior plan) and training, allowing you to implement the strategies in the circumstances in which they are needed?
7. Does the professional communicate with you regularly to share progress, problem-solve, determine changes in services (e.g., reducing or terminating when the goals are achieved, engaging or transferring services to another provider)?

For more information on competencies expected of professionals employing PBS: www.apbs.org

For more information on professional expectations of behavior analysts: www.bacb.com

