

What to Look for in an Intensive Intervention Program

Just as adults have specific learning styles, so do children. The learning style must match the most effective way the child processes information (i.e., visually, verbally, hands-on, etc.) and the child’s personality. Some people learn best when they are taught using linear, concrete, and highly structured methods (such as with behavior-based methods) whereas others learn best through incidental teaching or thought hands-on learning (such as with child-centered methods). Learning methods are not right or wrong and each method can teach the same skills. The question really is, which method works best for you child and family. Below is a checklist to help point you in the right direction.

What methods work best for my child and family? Behavior-Based (ABA or Verbal Behavior) or Child-Centered (Floortime).

Question	Behavior-Based	Child-Centered
My child learns best and is happiest when s/he learns	In structured environments (i.e., sitting at the table and focusing)	While playing
I can get my child to do things when I	Tell him/her directly what s/he needs to do	Coach, prod, negotiate, let him/her think it’s his/her idea, etc.
My child learns best when taught one thing at a time instead of the whole concept (i.e., the color blue vs. these are colors and this one crayon is blue)	For example, when learning colors, my child works best if I sit him/her down at a table or on the floor and practice “drilling” one color at a time using crayons (i.e., saying, “this is blue” and asking the child then to “touch the blue crayon”).	For example, when learning colors, my child works best if we take out crayons and color. I will label the colors and my child eventually learns them or going on a color hunt and asking my child to find everything that is blue in the house.
I have other children that I would like to be part of the session	Generally not	Usually not a problem

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Questions to Consider when Comparing Agencies

Question	Milestones	Other Agency
Are parents involved in the child's session and can they observe? If they can observe, are there any restrictions?	✓ Absolutely! Anytime without restriction	
Do you involve siblings?	✓ Absolutely! The sibling can be involved in all or part of the session.	
What methods do you use?	<p><u>Behavior Based</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) ✓ Discrete Trial Training (DTT or DTL) ✓ Verbal Behavior (VB) ✓ Positive Behavior Support (PBS) <p><u>Child Centered</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Floortime (FT) ✓ RDI ✓ Scerts ✓ Sensory Play 	
Where can services take place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Home ✓ Community ✓ Early Intervention Center ✓ School ✓ Milestones' Facility 	
If we needed additional consultants or evaluations, can you do that as well? If so, what kinds?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Occupational Therapy ✓ Speech Therapy ✓ Physical Therapy ✓ Psychological Services ✓ Functional Behavior Assessment ✓ Educational Assessments ✓ Developmental or Psychological Assessments ✓ Diagnostic Assessments 	
What qualifications do the staff have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All staff have a Bachelors or Masters degree ✓ All staff have completed the Milestones' 80 hour training course ✓ Milestones does not hire staff members who do not have prior experience working with children ✓ Full time staff also attend a bi-weekly staff meeting which provides professional development workshops 	
Who supervises the staff and how often?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All staff are supervised by Regional Education Coordinators who have expertise in child development and treatment methods ✓ The supervisor will see your child between twice per week and once per month, depending upon the number of hours your child receives. 	
Do you collect data?	✓ Yes	
Does your fee include supervision or is that extra? What about initial assessment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Our fee includes supervision (no additional fee) ✓ There is no initial assessment fee 	
What types of initial assessments do you do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ General Developmental Assessment for all children ✓ For children using ABA or Verbal behavior, we conduct a baseline assessment of skills 	
Does my child have his/her own webpage that I can view progress at any point?	✓ Yes, all children have their own webpage which houses your child's progress reports, data collection, and assessments.	

