



## Becoming and ABA therapist with Autism Partnership

*Autism Partnership is an agency that specializes in providing behavioural intervention programs for children with autism. These programs are based on the psychological principles of **Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)**. The families we work with are often looking for staff (called “therapists”) to work with their children under the supervision of AP.*

### *The role of an ABA therapist*

*You will provide 2-5 sessions per week with each child. Sessions are usually 2-3 hours long (so you may see 2-3 children per day).*

*An individual program is designed for every child, which will include a range of curricular and behavioural areas. You will be teaching the child how to play, socialize and communicate. You will also be working on reducing the child’s complex and challenging behaviours. Other areas might include building the child’s independence, toilet training, school integration, sibling interaction, community behavior, understanding emotions, etc.*

*You will receive training and supervision as you work, via initial workshops, team meetings, and session overlaps. The techniques you use will be based on behavioural principles, such as reinforcement, shaping, prompting, discrete trial teaching, and extinction. These strategies are very effective in the treatment of autism and have strong research support.*

### *Traits of a good ABA therapist*

*Enthusiastic  
Engaging with children  
Some knowledge of developmental norms  
Professional & ethical in conduct  
Able to stay calm in the face of challenging behaviour  
Willing to work a number of short shifts in a row  
Willing to attend regular team meetings  
Can commit for at least one year  
Background in psychology or speech pathology*



*Working as an ABA therapist is a great way to get paid while obtaining practical experience in the psychology/speech pathology fields*

**For more information & background on ABA, check out:**

**[www.autismpartnership.com.au](http://www.autismpartnership.com.au)**



## FAQ's . . .

### What background/education do I need?

A background in psychology or speech pathology is very helpful. You do not need to have graduated from any tertiary education, but having an interest in these areas means you will already have some knowledge of child development and children with learning differences.

### Who is my employer?

Although Autism Partnership will provide your supervision, your employer will be the family you work for. They are responsible for your pay rates, hours, and therapy schedule. AP's role is to provide you with supervision and training as service provider to the family, so you can effectively teach the children we work with.

### What do I get paid?

This varies greatly, and it's up to you to negotiate directly with your employers. Your pay rate will depend on your experience level. Pay rates start between \$15-\$20 per hour and gradually increase from there.

### How many hours do I work?

That's entirely up to you. You can fit your work around uni timetables and other commitments. But, with each family you should commit to 2-5 sessions per week, for at least a year.

### What training will I receive?

AP will provide you with on-the-job training as the service provider to the family. However if you're looking for more formal workshops, there are training sessions we run for agencies such as the ABIA in Victoria ([www.abia.net.au](http://www.abia.net.au)) and the ABIQ in Queensland ([www.abiq.org](http://www.abiq.org)). You can contact them if you want to attend an intensive workshop on ABA.

### How do I get started?

If you are interested in working with AP families, send your CV to Autism Partnership and arrange a phone interview to see whether you would be suitable for work in the field. From there, you would give Autism Partnership permission to provide your resume to AP families, who will then contact you and interview you for a position on their child's team.

***Please note: there is no guarantee of work with AP families, and AP does not endorse any individual therapist to families. AP will send the family your contact details. The family will then contact you directly and employ you at their discretion. AP is not responsible or liable for any unsuccessful interviews or employment with any family.***

**Contact Us at [info@autismpartnership.com.au](mailto:info@autismpartnership.com.au) or on (03) 9375 2469 if you would like further information**

