

Career Entry jobs  
Working with

## Autistic Children

As an

## ABA Tutor

Check out  
[www.abasupportnetwork.com](http://www.abasupportnetwork.com)  
in the Careers section

### **What is Autism**

Autism is a neurological disorder that affects one child in every 166. The incident of autism is increasing.

Autistic children have difficulty making sense of the world around them so they often revert to a world of their own. They tantrum easily, develop self stimulatory behavior and often have difficulty learning to talk. Less severe autistics have difficulty making friends and do not engage in pretend play

### **What is ABA?**

ABA stands for Applied Behavior Analysis. In short, it is a practice of breaking down all things learned into smaller components. Each component is taught by giving a cue, the child responds to the cue and reinforcement is given if the response is favorable. This reinforces desired behavior.

ABA can be used to teach autistics anything from riding a bike, to getting dressed, to reading and having a conversation or playing with friends.

Research shows that children with autism who begin ABA treatment before the age of 6, have a 45% chance of recovery. These children become indistinguishable from their peers. The other 55% continue to benefit from ABA as it helps them learn to enjoy all things life can offer.

## What does an ABA tutor do?

Parents of autistic children hire tutors to come into their home to work one-on-one with their child. Sometimes they take the child into the community for lessons (music, gymnastics, swimming etc) or for working on behaviors when in public places.

Programs are developed by an ABA consultant and the tutor delivers the programs to the child. There is usually a team of 3 to 5 tutors working with one child. All team members must deliver the programs in the same way. For this reason, there are usually weekly or bi-weekly meetings to share delivery practices.

Tutors are trained by a lead Tutor. They are then supervised by the consultant for fine tuning.

Shifts tend to be 1.5 to 4 hours long. Schedules are made every semester to accommodate college courses, since many tutors attend college or university. Tutors may work with children from one to nineteen years old.

## What are the career options of a tutor?

Once you have been trained with one child, you will be very much in demand by other families seeking Tutors. There is no shortage of hours of work.

Tutors can become Lead Tutors, where they take more responsibility for overseeing the team and work closely with the parent and consultant. Pay for this can range from \$12 - \$20 per hour depending on experience.

After gaining 1000 hours or more on a home based team, tutors can take courses to become qualified to work in the schools with ABA children. This can pay \$25 per hour with benefits. Similarly, tutors are hired to work in Government supported ABA homes for adults.

Tutors who have completed a degree in Psychology, can train to become ABA consultants. Consultants start at \$80 per hour.

## What are parents looking for when hiring Tutors?

Parents are looking for individuals who are bright, fun and energetic. Having experience working with children is necessary. This can include babysitting, helping children in school, working for day camps, being an instructor of some kind (swimming, skating, piano etc).

It is not necessary to have experience with disabled children, as being a tutor is very different than most experiences you would have in disability activities anyway.

**THERE IS A HIGH DEMAND FOR MEN!!**

## What do I do to get a position?

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