

Autism Center Reflection

Please complete the attached form after your rotation at the autism center. This assignment must be turned in based on the syllabus due date. Please do not include any client specific information on this form. Be sure to protect the client's personal health information (PHI).

1. What is Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)? Please indicate your source.

Applied Behavioral Analysis is a therapy based on the science of learning and behavior (autismspeaks.org, 2025). Through the application of applied behavioral analysis we can come to understand how learning takes place and behavior is influenced by the environment. Programs that utilize applied behavioral analysis help children on the autism spectrum to improve their language and communication skills, focus, attention, memory skills, social skills, and reduce behavioral problems (autismspeaks.org, 2025).

2. How does ABA apply to the clients that you saw today?

Today we saw a building full of clients at different places on the autism spectrum, and because they are all in different places on the spectrum it would not be right to sit them all down in one communal classroom and expect them all to learn at the same pace. By individualizing each client's teaching plan this autism center is successfully acknowledging where each client is on their education journey and catering to their specific needs to achieve the highest results.

3. Give one example of ABA that you saw applied today at your clinical site.

Today I spent most of my time with a young client who does not have a hearing deficient, but is nonverbal because he has not yet learned how to voice his thoughts. He has a talking device that he can use to express his needs and concerns that he is highly efficient with. This client is also on a schedule where he rotates tasks every fifteen minutes to keep him focused and avoid behavioral outbursts. Without these individualized tactics this client would not be progressing in his education as well as he is, and would suffer because of it.

4. Give one example of how you can use ABA in practice.

ABA can be used in practice by evaluating each patient and meeting them where they are at instead of expecting them all to conform to one set standard. By getting to know our patients and showing empathy and compassion, we can apply the principles of ABA in our practice.

5. Discuss positive reflections from the day.

I had a very positive experience at the autism center. I thought that all the employees were wonderful and truly cared about each client in the center. I enjoyed watching the way they all interacted and bonded with each other to create a positive work place in a chaotic environment.

6. Discuss negative reflections from the day.

I did not have many negative experiences at the autism center today. My only critique would be that they need more resources and space for the children but this would be expensive and other than that I thought that it was a very well put together and positive place.

References:

Autismspeaks.org. Retrieved on 04/10/2025 <https://www.autismspeaks.org/applied-behavior-analysis>