

FOCUS ON LEARNING

HAWAII PARENT

THE MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES

Injury Prevention

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**Guide to
Enrichment**



Be a Child's Superhero! Help Kids with Autism!

Do you love kids and that feeling you get when you help others? Are you a quick learner? Do you have an energetic personality? Are you creative? Do you prefer a fast-paced work environment? Are responsive to receiving feedback? Do you have a knack for playing with kids and being fun?

WHAT IS AN RBT?

An RBT credential is an entry-level credential required of the person responsible for the direct implementation of protocols and procedures in an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program. ABA is the science of learning and behavior. ABA treatment programs are prescribed as a medical-necessity, ranging between 10-40 hours/week of treatment, depending on severity of language deficits, and array of problem behavior. ABA programs are geared to teach socially significant skill deficits, such as language/communication, self-help, and play skills, improve fluency of responding, and replace problematic

by Amy Wiech, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA

behaviors with language and leisure skill activities to children and adolescents on the Autism spectrum. An RBT works under the close supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA/BCBA-D, or BCaBA) supervisor.

HOW MUCH DO RBTS MAKE?

RBTS can expect between \$12-\$20 per hour depending on the agency and the employee benefits package. Based on IRS and Department of Labor rules, and the BACB.com, RBTS (and most BCBA's) do not inherently qualify as independent contractors, so beware of agencies offering to 1099 you and make you a contractor. You will need to consider the benefits package, the work environment, the amount of training, supports and direct supervision you will be receiving depending on the case-load, professional development, as well as driving/commute commitments. Some



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- Toddlers/Pre-School Age Children
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- Non-Verbal Learners
- Individuals with Speech & Language Difficulties



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- Language Acquisition for Non-Verbal or Limited Vocal Abilities.
- Fluency Based Instruction for Learners who dislike academics/school
- Social Cognition & Executive Functioning for high functioning ASD
- Language Building /Vocabulary Development / Conversation Skills
- Behavior Reduction (reducing tantrums, aggression, etc)
- Self help/functional life skills (bathing, light meal prep, toileting, eating).



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positions for RBTs are full time, others are part time which are usually afterschool hours from 2:30-5:30pm, or so.

WHY BECOME AN RBT?

Most health insurance plans in Hawaii began covering ABA treatment starting January 1, 2016. These plans require RBTs deliver the ABA intervention, with BCBA supervision. In addition, Act 199, the state licensure law, requires those practicing ABA in Hawaii become licensed with the DCCA. By 2019, this same law will require ALL professionals who work or teach children with autism in schools (including school-based professionals, teachers and EAs) be at least RBT credentialed, unless ABA is already in their scope of practice under another license recognized by the State of Hawaii. To be clear, schools do not provide medically-necessary

“There is a GROWING demand for RBTs in our state.”

ABA treatment; they may provide supports pursuant to a different standard (some educational benefit), for different purposes (to access the educational curriculum) with differently credentialed providers (special education teachers and aides). Such services do not supplant medically-necessary ABA treatment.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME AN RBT?

Anyone who has experience working (e.g. daycare, babysitting, moms, dads, teachers, teacher's aide) with children and is 18 years or older with a high school diploma or equivalent may apply to become an RBT. You must also complete at least 40 hours of RBT training, successfully pass all portions of a competency assessment, and achieve a passing score on the RBT exam (\$50), and apply to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (\$45). A clear background check is also required. Information on the written exam can be found at <http://bach.com/rbt-exam/>. Many agencies such as ABC Group (Autism Behavior Consulting Group) in Hawaii offer the RBT training at no charge to new hires. CPR/BLS, TB clearance, clear driving abstract and other crisis training also may be required for these RBT positions.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS WILL I LEARN IN MY RBT TRAINING?

RBT training includes coursework on evidence-based behavior intervention techniques and strategies for individuals including but not limited to: Data Measurement, Assessment, Skill Acquisition, Behavior Reduction, Documentation and Reporting, Professional Conduct and Scope of Practice. The training will cover tasks and subtasks in the RBT Task List (www.bacb.com) and the ethics requirements that have been indicated as being relevant for behavior technicians to possess and demonstrate in their repertoire.

WHERE COULD I WORK AS AN RBT?

Many agencies who provide medically-necessary treatment for Autism, such as ABC Group Hawaii, hire RBTs to work in a clinic setting (like a school), or in the home or community or school settings. In addition, Hawaii Department of Education will be requiring staff who work with students with Autism possess RBT registration by 2019.

WHAT'S THE CAREER PATH OF AN RBT?

RBTs can choose to continue on in the field of ABA, taking coursework to become a Master's level Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Bachelor level Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) ABC Group is also a hybrid site for the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) Master's in Professional Behavior Analysis. This program allows students to complete their required 1500 hours supervised practicum experience at ABC Group while

they are working!

Thus, there is a GROWING demand for RBTs in our state! Not only do schools need RBTs, but also those agencies who deliver medically-necessary ABA treatment funded by health insurance. This credential offers a rewarding career for anyone in Hawaii.

Dr. Amy Wiech, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA is the founder of ABC Group Hawaii: Autism Behavior Consulting Group an ABA treatment clinic, located in Halawa Valley, near Honolulu, and has over 25 years' experience with children and adolescents challenged with autism. ABC Group is accredited as a Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE) and is a kama'aina company providing ABA treatment to individuals in Hawaii since 2006. ABC Group values ethical service delivery, professional development, and a commitment to its employees. www.ABCGroupHawaii.com. For more information on ABA treatment or becoming an RBT with ABC Group, call 808-277-7736. ■



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