WHAT IS A BCBA & HOW THEY SUPPORT YOUR CHILD
essential CHECKLIST

1. Core Definition & Understanding

- ☐ Understand that a BCBA is a master's- or doctoral-level practitioner specializing in the science of human behaviour.
- ☐ Recognize that BCBAs focus on how environmental factors influence human behaviour and assess the function or purpose of specific behaviours.
- ☐ Framing approach: Developmental differences are viewed as differences, not deficits to be fixed.
- ☐ Core objective: Build meaningful life skills, foster independence, improve overall quality of life, and help children thrive as their authentic selves.

2. Day-to-Day Role & Responsibilities

- ☐ **Conduct Comprehensive Assessments:** Perform functional behaviour assessments and clinical observations to pinpoint natural strengths, preferences, and growth areas.
- ☐ **Design Play-Based Programs:** Create individualized, low-pressure programs grounded in a child's organic interests and positive reinforcement.
- ☐ **Provide Coaching & Collaboration:** Train caregivers, therapy assistants, and educators to ensure consistent strategies across home, school, and community environments.

3. Family Benefits & Impact

- ☐ **Eliminate Guesswork:** Replace uncertainty with clear, compassionate, and neurodiversity-affirming strategies.
- ☐ **Proactive Everyday Tools:** Provide practical guidance for daily routines, such as bedtime, social gatherings, or community outings.
- ☐ **Family Partnership:** Ensure parents never have to navigate the care path alone, upholding the child's dignity while empowering the entire family unit.

4. Key Target Outcomes

- ☐ **Functional Communication:** Empower expression (thoughts, wants, boundaries) through speech, picture exchange systems, or augmentative devices.
- ☐ **Emotional Regulation:** Teach body-based self-regulation strategies to safely manage sensory overload or intense emotions.
- ☐ **Daily Living & Social Skills:** Develop practical independence in everyday routines like dressing, hygiene, and peer interactions.

Professional Qualifications Comparison:

Professional Level	Minimum Education	Primary Role & Responsibilities
BCBA / RBA	Master's or Doctoral Degree	Conducts assessments, designs programs, supervises teams, trains caregivers.
BCaBA	Bachelor's Degree	Assists in program implementation and assessment under direct BCBA supervision.
Therapist / Interventionist	Specialized Diploma or Training	Directly implements daily play-based interventions designed by the BCBA.