

IFSP Child and Family Outcomes

QUICK GUIDE

Types of IFSP Outcomes:

- **Family-Focused:** Centers on the parents' learning to support the child's participation (e.g., parents learning bedtime routines), the parent gaining information, or connecting to resources.
- **Child-Focused:** Focuses on increasing the child's active involvement in meaningful family routines (e.g., child joining family meals).

Three-Step Process for Writing IFSP Outcomes:

- **Step 1: Gather Information**
 - Identify family priorities, routines, interests, and desired participation.
 - Use interviews, discussions, observation and tools like:
 - Routines-Based Interview
 - Routines-Based Conversations
 - Guiding Questions or other family-friendly worksheets
- **Step 2: Observe Families and Children**
 - Observe real-life activities and parent-child interactions across various settings and times.
 - Involve caregivers in the observation process by pointing out skills, behaviors, routines, or activities for them to focus on so they can share more descriptive information.
- **Step 3: Document Outcome Statements**
 - Ensure outcomes come directly from the family's concerns and priorities.
 - Consider using a word to describe the skill/behavior the family would like to see as the 3rd word of the outcome to ensure functionality (e.g., "play" "eat", "use a word/gesture").

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- Include a measurement goal that is simple and observable to the family and IFSP team.
- Use real-life timelines (e.g., most of the time, every day, a specific holiday, or a family event).
- Include the routine or time of day in which the action or participation will occur.
- Avoid passive words like “tolerate,” “receive,” “increase,” and “maintain.”
- Avoid percentages. Use measures that the family and IFSP team can observe and agree that the skills meet their expectation for accomplishment.
- Use language that is familiar to the family. Write discipline-free and jargon-free outcomes.