

Hints for Developing Individualized Early Intervention Outcomes

- To be contextualized/relevant to the family, *start with activity settings in which the family participates and identifies as important and/or activity settings the family would like to pursue.*
- Consider the "*third-word rule*": The third word of the outcome should be *the activity* the family has described as important to them, *not the means* for achieving what is important.
- Contextualized, functional outcomes are *discipline-free*
- Outcomes *can use the family's words* (and/or paraphrase the family's statement) *and also include the criteria that are required by payors*
- Measurement criteria include:
 - *Who* (the child's name for child's outcomes)
 - *Will do what*
 - *Under what circumstances*
 - *How well*
 - *By when* (target date)

Consider:

- There are many right ways to write outcomes!
- Payor sources recognize a deficit-based model. Thus there is a "disconnect" when writing outcomes for an asset-based, capacity-building intervention approach. It is possible to meet both criteria. The challenge for providers is to practice the asset-based, capacity-building approach while providing documentation that satisfies a system that supports the deficit-based/treatment approach.

Checklist for outcomes:

- ✓ Are they contextualized? (Contextualized outcomes involve activity settings identified by the family; decontextualized outcomes are statements about specific skills and/or contrived settings)
- ✓ Are they discipline-free?
- ✓ Do they support promoting the child's participation in activity settings that are important to the family?
- ✓ Are they measurable?
 - "*Child's name* *will do what* under what circumstances* how well *by when"
 - The measurement criteria should mean the same to anyone reading the outcome