Want to Write a GOOD IFSP OUTCOME?

3 components of functional outcomes:

1. ACQUISITION STATEMENT

Clearly state what skill or behavior the child or family is to acquire or achieve. The skill or behavior should be measurable and easily observable.

2. CONTEXT OR SETTING WITHIN EVERYDAY ROUTINES AND ACTIVITIES

Identify the child's and the family's everyday routine or activity in which the behavior is expected.

3. CRITERION FOR ACHIEVEMENT OVER WHAT AMOUNT OF TIME

Include a criterion that represents a reasonable frequency, duration, or rate for the new skill or behavior. It should also state over what amount of time we should see the new skill or behavior to be sure that the child has really met the outcome.

Here's an Example:

Juan will use a two-word phrase to tell his parents what he wants to eat (e.g., want cookie, more yogurt) during snack time at least ten afternoons during a two-week period.

When Juan can use a two-word phrase to tell his parents what he wants to eat during snack time at least ten afternoons during a two-week period, the outcome is achieved.

Key Questions for Quality Outcomes

Keep these key questions in mind when developing quality IFSP outcomes & goals:

☑ Is the wording jargon-free & understandable by ALL team members?

☑ Is the outcome/goal discipline-free (meaning that it doesn't sound like a "speech goal" or a "PT outcome")?

☑ Does it meet the 3rd word rule where the 3rd word is a verb reflecting what the child will do (ex: David will crawl…)?

☑ Is it based on functional activities for the child rather than specific skills from an assessment tool?

☑ Does the wording emphasize the positive?

☑ Are the outcomes/goals specific enough to measure change? Will the family know when the outcome/goal is met?

☑ Does the outcome/goal reflect the family's role & incorporate unique child and family routines & activities?