

Child Outcomes Summary Form Team Discussions Video Purpose, Introductions, and Discussion Questions

The enclosed DVD shows teams discussing children's functioning in three outcome areas: 1) having positive social emotional skills, 2) acquiring and using knowledge and skills, and 3) taking appropriate action to meet one's needs. These are the functional outcomes state early intervention and early childhood special education preschool programs must measure and report to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The DVD is meant for use by programs using the Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF) to measure the three child outcomes.

The DVD was produced by STARNET (<http://www.wiu.edu/starnet/>) with funding from the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education. Many thanks to Pam Reising-Rechner, IL 619 coordinator, and Joan Leff and Connie Shugart of STARNET for making the DVD 1) possible and 2) accessible to programs across the states.

When using the DVD as part of a training activity, you may wish to have the COSF your program uses and the 'decision tree,' in hand while observing the video. Use the forms provided by your state or local administrative agency, or, download the generic versions from the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Center website (www.the-eco-center.org). While observing the video, note how you would document the discussion on the COSF and how the information provided by the teams would guide a rating using the decision tree. For more information about COSF training materials, contact the ECO Center at staff@the-eco-center.org.

The DVD shows three team discussions, each featuring a different child, team, and outcome. All the teams shown on the video include parents. Discussion questions are provided at the end of each outcome discussion to help you think critically about what you have observed.

Team Discussion 1 – Outcome 1 -- Emily

In this discussion, a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and a mom talk about Emily's social-emotional skills (Outcome 1). Emily is 3 years, 4 months of age, and has just been determined eligible for speech services. The information exchanged in the discussion will be used for 'entry' outcomes data collection. While viewing the discussion, pay special attention to how the team considers various sources of assessment, how the mother participates, and whether the discussion focuses on the child's skills and behaviors in everyday life.

Discussion questions

1. What were the overall strengths and weaknesses of the team discussion?
2. How well did the team use assessment information in this discussion?
 - Did the assessment information come from multiple sources?
 - What sources did the team draw upon?
 - Did the discussion cover all aspects of the outcome area?
3. To what extent was the family involved in the discussion?
 - How did professionals seek family input?
 - What information did family members contribute?
 - How did you feel about the overall tone of the discussion – was it “family friendly”? Did professionals seem to value the contributions of the family?

4. To what extent did the discussion focus on the child's skills and behaviors in everyday life?
 - What functional skills and behaviors did the team describe?
 - What settings and situations did the discussion cover?
 - Did the discussion compare the child's functional skills and behaviors to age expectations?
5. What key information might you record from this discussion using the Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF)?
6. What additional information would you need to determine a rating for this outcome using the COSF?

Team Discussion 2 – Outcome 2 -- Ethan

This discussion focuses on Ethan's acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (Outcome 2). The team includes his mother and father, as well as the early childhood special education teacher, speech-language pathologist, and occupational therapist. At 4 years, 10 months, Ethan is getting ready to leave preschool services. Therefore, this discussion will be used for 'exit' outcomes data collection. While viewing the discussion, pay special attention to how the team considers various sources of assessment, how the family participates, and whether the discussion focuses on the child's skills and behaviors in everyday life.

Discussion questions

1. What were the overall strengths and weaknesses of the team discussion?
2. How well did the team use assessment information in this discussion?
 - Did the assessment information come from multiple sources?
 - What sources did the team draw upon?
 - Did the discussion cover all aspects of the outcome area?
3. To what extent was the family involved in the discussion?
 - How did professionals seek family input?
 - What information did family members contribute?
 - How did you feel about the overall tone of the discussion – was it “family friendly”? Did professionals seem to value the contributions of the family?
4. To what extent did the discussion focus on the child's skills and behaviors in everyday life?
 - What functional skills and behaviors did the team describe?
 - What settings and situations did the discussion cover?
 - Did the discussion compare the child's functional skills and behaviors to age expectations?
5. What key information might you record from this discussion using the Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF)?
6. What additional information would you need to determine a rating for this outcome using the COSF?

Team Discussion 3 – Outcome 3 -- Trevor

In this discussion, a team talks about Trevor’s ability to take appropriate action to meet his needs (Outcome 3). Trevor’s mom and dad, the service coordinator, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, and development specialist comprise the team. Trevor is 28 months old and has received Part C services for about a year. The discussion is part of a process some states are using to document functional status in the three outcome areas on an annual basis. While viewing the discussion, pay special attention to how the team considers various sources of assessment, how the family participates, and whether the discussion focuses on the child’s skills and behaviors in everyday life.

Discussion questions

1. What were the overall strengths and weaknesses of the team discussion?
2. How well did the team use assessment information in this discussion?
 - Did the assessment information come from multiple sources?
 - What sources did the team draw upon?
 - Did the discussion cover all aspects of the outcome area?
3. To what extent was the family involved in the discussion?
 - How did professionals seek family input?
 - What information did family members contribute?
 - How did you feel about the overall tone of the discussion – was it “family friendly”? Did professionals seem to value the contributions of the family?
4. To what extent did the discussion focus on the child’s skills and behaviors in everyday life?
 - What functional skills and behaviors did the team describe?
 - What settings and situations did the discussion cover?
 - Did the discussion compare the child’s functional skills and behaviors to age expectations?
5. What key information might you record from this discussion using the Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF)?
6. What additional information would you need to determine a rating for this outcome using the COSF?