ecta Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

DaSy The Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems

Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Definitions: 7-Point Rating Scale Criteria

Updated June 28, 2024 — Available in Spanish — https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/cosform.asp

Overall Age-Expected Functioning

Rating	Definition
7	Child functions in ways that are age-expected in all or almost all everyday situations that are part of the child's life. No one on the team has concerns about the child's functioning in this outcome area.
6	Child's functioning generally is considered age-expected, but there are some significant concerns about the child's functioning in this outcome area. Although age-expected, the child's functioning may border on not keeping pace with age expectations.

Some Age-Expected Functioning

Rating	Definition
5	Child functions using a mix of skills, with more skills that are age-expected than not age-expected, across settings and situations in this outcome area. Child's functioning might be described as like that of a slightly younger child.
4	Child occasionally uses age-expected skills across settings and situations in this outcome area. More functioning is not age-expected than is age-expected.

Not Yet Age-Expected Functioning

Rating	Definition
3	Child uses immediate foundational skills most or all of the time across settings and situations. Child does not yet function in ways that would be considered age-expected in this outcome area. Functioning might be described as like that of a younger child.
2	Child occasionally uses immediate foundational skills across settings and situations. Child does not yet function in ways that would be considered age-expected in this outcome area. More functioning reflects skills that are foundational than are immediate foundational.
1	Child only uses foundational skills across settings and situations. These foundational skills are crucial to build immediate foundational skills. Child does not yet function in ways that would be considered age-expected or immediate foundational in this outcome area. Child's functioning might be described as like that of a much younger child.