

Calculating OSEP Progress Categories from the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Form

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<https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/cos-calc.asp>

OSEP Progress Categories as Developmental Trajectories

States are required to report on [progress categories](#) for each of [the three child outcomes](#):

- a. Did not improve functioning
- b. Improved in functioning, no change in trajectory
- c. Moved closer to functioning like same-aged peers
- d. Improved functioning to that of same-aged peers
- e. Functioning like same-aged peers

These tables display the combinations of ratings detailed in the [COS Definitions: 7-Point Rating Scale Criteria](#) that a child might receive at entry and at later **COS Ratings** made after a minimum of six months since the prior rating. These are usually exit ratings, but some programs conduct interim ratings.

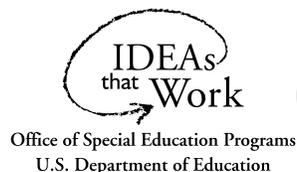
New Skills refers to the answer to questions 1b, 2b, and 3b on the [COS Form](#): “Has the child shown any new skills or behaviors related to this outcome since the entry COS rating?”

The **Category** column includes the resulting OSEP progress category used for federal reporting. **Impossible** rating combinations are noted and explained.

A sample of hypothetical data and reporting is also included.

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Overall Age-Expected Functioning

Entry Rating: 7

COS Rating	New Skills	Category
7	Yes	e
6	Yes	e
6-7	No	Impossible: As children age, the same rating requires new skills.
1-5	Yes	b
1-5	No	a

Entry Rating: 6

COS Rating	New Skills	Category
7	Yes	e
6	Yes	e
6-7	No	Impossible: As children age, the same rating requires new skills.
1-5	Yes	b
1-5	No	a

Some Age-Expected Functioning

Entry Rating: 5

COS Rating	New Skills	Category
6-7	Yes	d
6-7	No	Impossible: A higher rating requires the child to have acquired new skills.
5	Yes	b
5	No	Impossible: As children age, the same rating requires new skills.
1-4	Yes	b
1-4	No	a

Entry Rating: 4

COS Rating	New Skills	Category
6–7	Yes	d
5–7	No	Impossible: A higher rating requires the child to have acquired new skills.
5	Yes	c
4	Yes	b
4	No	Impossible: As children age, the same rating requires new skills.
1–3	Yes	b
1–3	No	a

Not Yet Age-Expected Functioning

Entry Rating: 3

COS Rating	New Skills	Category
6–7	Yes	d
4–7	No	Impossible: A higher rating requires the child to have acquired new skills.
4–5	Yes	c
3	Yes	b
3	No	Impossible: As children age, the same rating requires new skills.
1–2	Yes	b
1–2	No	a

Entry Rating: 2

COS Rating	New Skills	Category
6–7	Yes	d
3–7	No	Impossible: A higher rating requires the child to have acquired new skills.
3–5	Yes	c
2	Yes	b
2	No	Impossible: As children age, the same rating requires new skills.
1	Yes	b
1	No	a

Entry Rating: 1

COS Rating	New Skills	Category
6–7	Yes	d
2–7	No	Impossible: A higher rating requires the child to have acquired new skills.
2–5	Yes	c
1	Yes	b
1	No	a

Using Data for Reporting

These two tables provide a look at hypothetical data illustrating results for ten children for Outcome 2: Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills.

COS Form Data: Outcome 2

Child	Entry Rating	Exit Rating	New Skills	Category
Tammy	7	7	Yes	e
Patty	6	7	Yes	e
Jonas	3	5	Yes	c
Phoenix	4	4	Yes	b
Angela	1	1	No	a
Juan	2	4	Yes	c
Terry	1	1	Yes	b
Leroy	3	5	Yes	c
Maria	4	7	Yes	d
Tony	5	3	Yes	b

OSEP Progress Categories: Outcome 2

Category	Percentage
e. Functioning like same-aged peers	20
d. Improved functioning to that of same-aged peers	10
c. Moved closer to functioning like same-aged peers	30
b. Improved in functioning, no change in trajectory	30
a. Did not improve functioning	10