

## Activity Answer Key

### **Name of Activity: What are Functional Skills and Behaviors?**

Look at the list of skills below. Which are examples of functional skills? Which are examples of isolated (or discrete) skills? Place an X in the appropriate column and be prepared to explain why you selected your answers.

<b>Skill</b>	<b>Functional</b>	<b>Isolated</b>
<p>1. Knows how to imitate a gesture when prompted by others</p> <p><i>Knowing how to imitate a gesture does not necessarily mean that a child can gesture spontaneously for a specific purpose. A more functional skill would be, for example, uses gestures to indicate his preference for toys during play time.</i></p>		X
<p>2. Uses finger in pointing motion</p> <p><i>The child's ability to point does not necessarily indicate that he can use pointing for a functional purpose, such as to communicate wants and needs.</i></p>		X
<p>3. Uses 2-word utterances</p> <p><i>By itself, the fact that a child can put together two words does not tell you whether the child is using words purposely, such as to convey a message.</i></p>		X
<p>4. Watches what a peer says or does and incorporates it into his/her own play</p> <p><i>This reflects the child's ability to observe other children and imitate their behavior in a meaningful way.</i></p>	X	
<p>5. Points to indicate needs or wants</p> <p><i>More functional than the skill described in #2, above. In this example, the skill indicates that the child can point for a specific purpose.</i></p>	X	
<p>6. Engages in back and forth verbal exchanges with caregivers using 2-word utterances</p>	X	

<p><i>As opposed to #3, above, this skill is more functional because it describes a meaningful use of words.</i></p>		
<p>7. Uses pincer grasp</p> <p><i>It would be more functional to assess how a child applies the use of a pincer grasp in everyday life.</i></p>		X
<p>8. Can eat dry cereal with fingers</p> <p><i>Because it describes the purpose, rather than just the presence or absence, of fine motor skills.</i></p>	X	
<p>9. Touches toy or adult's hand to restart an activity</p> <p><i>Because it emphasizes purposeful movement.</i></p>	X	
<p>10. Makes stepping movements</p> <p><i>A child's ability to make stepping movements, without looking at how he or she uses that ability, is an example of an isolated skill.</i></p>		X