

Functional Outcomes

What is a functional outcome?

Functional outcomes describe children's mastery and appropriate application of behaviors, knowledge and skills in meaningful ways in their everyday lives, across a variety of settings. Ultimately, achieving these outcomes will help children thrive at home, in school and in many settings throughout their communities.

How are these outcomes different from information gathered through Results Matter assessments?

Whereas the assessments measure development in discreet domains such as gross motor and language, these more global outcomes measure functioning within routines and activities that require the integration of skills across various domains.

Have specific functional outcomes been developed either for Colorado or at the national level?

Yes. Colorado uses three functional outcomes that are also used at the national level. These outcomes were developed by a large group of stakeholders including families, educators and interventionists.



1 Children develop positive social-emotional skills, *including social relationships.*



2 Children acquire and use knowledge and skills, including early language, communication and literacy.



3 Children use appropriate behaviors to meet their needs, this is *self-help and independence.*

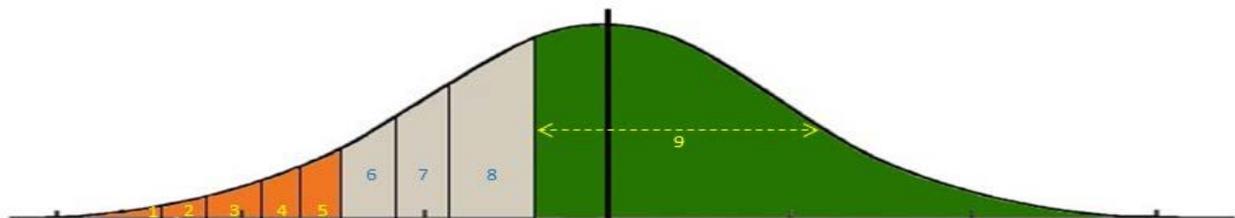
Each functional outcome draws from several objectives across multiple developmental domains. For example, in GOLD[®], Outcome 3 uses scores from items 1.c.1-4 (eating/drinking, toileting/hygiene, dressing, and personal safety) as well as other physical skills.

Why were these three functional outcomes developed?

Originally, these three functional outcomes were developed to meet the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) reporting requirement for infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities. Colorado stakeholders recognized early on that positive functional outcomes were important for all children and requested that the outcomes reporting capabilities be expanded to include all children in *Results Matter*.

How are functional outcomes measured?

Each outcome 1, 2, and 3 is measured along a nine-point scale that gauges developmental trajectories. General categories indicate whether children are delayed, at risk, or on track. The nine-point score is calculated automatically in Results Matter online assessment systems based on raw assessment scores.



Delayed (Level 1-5)
Needs intervention in order to succeed

At Risk (Level 6-8)
Challenges in learning and development likely

On track (Level 9)
Success in learning and development likely