

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?

The assessments measure skills in discreet domains of development with items and objectives describing children's performance. Three child outcomes used by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and measured in indicators reported on in a State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) measure functioning within routines and activities that require the integration of skills across various domains.

What are the specific functional outcomes developed at the national level?

Colorado uses three functional outcomes required by OSEP for Indicator 7 Preschool Outcomes measurement. These outcomes were developed by a large group of stakeholders including families, educators and interventionists.

- **Children develop positive social-emotional skills, including social relationships.**
- **Children acquire and use knowledge and skills, including early language, communication and literacy.**
- **Children use appropriate behaviors to meet their needs, this is *self-help and independence*.**

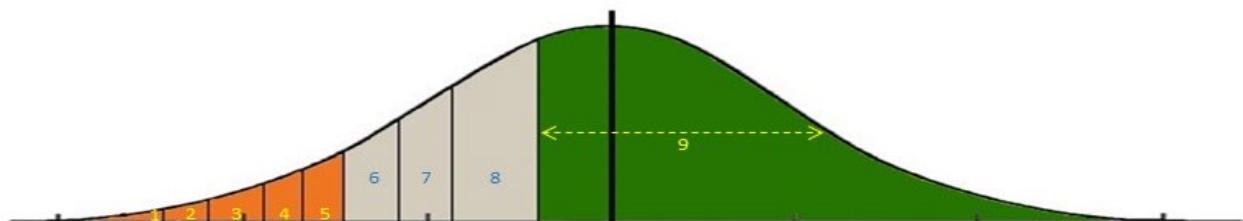
Each functional outcome draws from several objectives across multiple developmental domains in each of the assessment tools approved by Results Matter.

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 a 9-point scale.

How are functional outcomes measured?

Each of the three outcomes is measured along a nine-point scale that rates progress along accepted developmental trajectories. General results indicate whether children are delayed, at risk, or on track. The nine-point scaled score is calculated automatically in Results Matter online assessment systems based on raw assessment scores and cut points. An algorithm using the scaled scores and weighting of assessment items places children in OSEP defined progress categories for reporting purposes.



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