

## IFSP Outcomes: Top Tips

**Outcome development is not an isolated event.** It comes from the progression of activities in the first 45 days (referral, the first conversation with the family, observation, evaluation, assessment).

**The RBI/family assessment is THE conversation** where you review all of the family's routines and activities. Have a good conversation with the family so that you walk away knowing the routines/activities. If not, don't worry - once you realize you need more information, call or ask for additional clarification at the IFSP meeting.

Make sure by the time you get to the IFSP meeting, **the family is still saying the same outcome, and it's their outcome.** If the outcome is not what the family has said is their priority, ask what has changed.

For families struggling with understanding child development, **use the RBI to educate** them without making them feel like they don't know anything. Educate them about what EI can and cannot provide.

**Keep the family informed** at each step of the process. Remind them that outcomes are about their routines, activities, and priorities.

**Listen** to what the family says, and note the language they use. Meet them where they are.

Keep **conversation prompts** handy for times when you get "stuck" in conversations.

When families express a broad concern (e.g. "I want my child to walk"), **dig deeper** by asking, "What would that look like? Tell me more about that. Where and when would it be most helpful for your child to walk? What have you tried, and what other ideas do you have?"

Teaming is key for **sharing information** about the family ahead of time.

You will **gain confidence** by **building relationships** and seeing **positive results** with families and by opportunities to interact with peers.

Never be afraid to **ask questions**; even asking the same question multiple times is ok.

When there are different points of view during the outcome conversation, guide the discussion back to the **priorities of the family.** Ultimately, **outcomes are the family's decision.**