

Understanding IEP Objectives – Part 1

Introduction

We are hoping to provide parents with a way to advocate for their child with special education needs. The first step is understanding the IEP. The goals of our guide Understanding IEP Objectives are:

- Empower you to ask questions
- Provide you with advocacy actions
- Show you how to unpack an IEP objective
- Give you confidence to engage with IEP process

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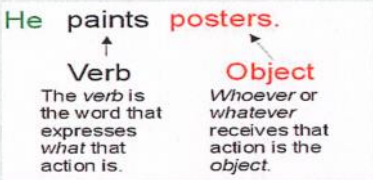
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Template for Evaluating an Objective (blank)

Steps		Enter your information	
Step 1:	Choose your highest priority IEP objective(s).		
Step 2:	Email special ed teacher for a prompt or test question for the priority objective.		
Step 3:	If you do not receive a prompt/test question, ask again in 3 business days. Wait before next step.		
	When received, write the prompt.		
Step 4:	A) Write IEP Objective's VERB-object combo <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>He paints posters.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">↑</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Verb</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The <i>verb</i> is the word that expresses <i>what</i> that action is.</p> <p style="margin-left: 140px;">↑</p> <p style="margin-left: 140px;">Object</p> <p style="margin-left: 140px;"><i>Whoever or whatever</i> receives that action is the <i>object</i>.</p> </div>	Objective verb	Objective object
	B) Write Prompt's VERB-object combo (note: the prompt object may be a specific example of the IEP objective object)	Prompt or test question verb	Prompt or test question object
Step 5:	A) <u>The verb-object combinations match.</u> Do you understand what the result should look like? If not, ask for help understanding.		
	B) <u>The verb-object combinations don't match.</u> Ask for clarification.		

Template for Evaluating an Objective (valid reading objective example)

Steps		Enter your information	
Step 1:	Choose your highest priority IEP objective(s).	Given 3 paragraphs of expository reading material which Xxxx can read decode fluently and accurately, he will state the main idea of each paragraph.	
Step 2:	Email special ed teacher for a prompt or test question for the priority objective.	"Hello. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal __, Objective __. This will help me understand what [Student] is supposed to do. Thank you!"	
Step 3:	If you do not receive a prompt/test question, ask again in 3 business days. Wait before next step.	"Hello. I'm following up on my previous email. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal ____ Objective _____. Thank you!"	
	When received, write the prompt.	Read these paragraphs and state the main idea of each paragraph.	
Step 4:	A) Write IEP Objective's VERB-object combo 	Objective verb	Objective object
	B) Write Prompt's VERB-object combo (note: the prompt object may be a specific example of the IEP objective object)	Prompt or test question verb	Prompt or test question object
Step 5:	A) <u>The verb-object combinations match.</u> Do you understand what the result should look like? If not, ask for help understanding.	"Thank you for the prompt/test question. I'm not sure I understand what it will look like when [Student] does this. Would you please help me?"	
	B) <u>The verb-object combinations don't match.</u> Ask for clarification.	"Thank you for the prompt/ test question. There appear to be differences between the IEP objective and prompt/test question. Would you please help me understand why there are differences?"	


Template for Evaluating an Objective (invalid reading objective example)

Steps		Enter your information	
Step 1:	Choose your highest priority IEP objective(s).	Xxxx will summarize important information in a variety of reading material.	
Step 2:	Email special ed teacher for a prompt or test question for the priority objective.	"Hello. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal __, Objective __. This will help me understand what [Student] is supposed to do. Thank you!"	
Step 3:	If you do not receive a prompt/test question, ask again in 3 business days. Wait before next step.	"Hello. I'm following up on my previous email. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal __ Objective __. Thank you!"	
	When received, write the prompt.	Read the the following story and then write a summary.	
Step 4:	A) Write IEP Objective's VERB-object combo <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>He paints posters.</p> <p>↑ ↑</p> <p>Verb Object</p> <p>The verb is the word that expresses what that action is. Whoever or whatever receives that action is the object.</p> </div>	Objective verb	Objective object
	B) Write Prompt's VERB-object combo (note: the prompt object may be a specific example of the IEP objective object)	Prompt or test question verb	Prompt or test question object
Step 5:	A) <u>The verb-object combinations match.</u> Do you understand what the result should look like? If not, ask for help understanding.	"Thank you for the prompt/test question. I'm not sure I understand what it will look like when [Student] does this. Would you please help me?"	
	B) <u>The verb-object combinations don't match.</u> Ask for clarification.	"Thank you for the prompt/ test question. There appear to be differences between the IEP objective and prompt/test question. Would you please help me understand why there are differences?"	

Template for Evaluating an Objective (valid math objective example)

Steps		Enter your information	
Step 1:	Choose your highest priority IEP objective(s).	Given a 1 step linear equations Xxxx will solve the equation.	
Step 2:	Email special ed teacher for a prompt or test question for the priority objective.	"Hello. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal __, Objective __. This will help me understand what [Student] is supposed to do. Thank you!"	
Step 3:	If you do not receive a prompt/test question, ask again in 3 business days. Wait before next step.	"Hello. I'm following up on my previous email. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal ___ Objective ____. Thank you!"	
	When received, write the prompt.	Solve $x + 3 = 5$	
Step 4:	A) Write IEP Objective's VERB-object combo <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>He paints posters.</p> <p>↑ ↑</p> <p>Verb Object</p> <p>The verb is the word that expresses what that action is. Whoever or whatever receives that action is the object.</p> </div>	Objective verb	Objective object
	B) Write Prompt's VERB-object combo (note: the prompt object may be a specific example of the IEP objective object)	Prompt or test question verb	Prompt or test question object
Step 5:	A) <u>The verb-object combinations match.</u> Do you understand what the result should look like? If not, ask for help understanding.	"Thank you for the prompt/test question. I'm not sure I understand what it will look like when [Student] does this. Would you please help me?"	
	B) <u>The verb-object combinations don't match.</u> Ask for clarification.	"Thank you for the prompt/ test question. There appear to be differences between the IEP objective and prompt/test question. Would you please help me understand why there are differences?"	

Template for Evaluating an Objective (invalid math objective example)

Steps		Enter your information	
Step 1:	Choose your highest priority IEP objective(s).	Xxx will use a variety of math tools to improve math computation and problem solving skills	
Step 2:	Email special ed teacher for a prompt or test question for the priority objective.	"Hello. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal __, Objective __. This will help me understand what [Student] is supposed to do. Thank you!"	
Step 3:	If you do not receive a prompt/test question, ask again in 3 business days. Wait before next step.	"Hello. I'm following up on my previous email. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal ___ Objective ____. Thank you!"	
	When received, write the prompt.	Solve $3.28 + 2.5$	
Step 4:	A) Write IEP Objective's VERB-object combo  <p>He paints posters.</p> <p>Verb The verb is the word that expresses what that action is.</p> <p>Object Whoever or whatever receives that action is the object.</p>	Objective verb	Objective object
	B) Write Prompt's VERB-object combo (note: the prompt object may be a specific example of the IEP objective object)	Prompt or test question verb	Prompt or test question object
Step 5:	A) The verb-object combinations match. Do you understand what the result should look like? If not, ask for help understanding.	"Thank you for the prompt/test question. I'm not sure I understand what it will look like when _____ does this. Would you please help me?"	
	B) The verb-object combinations don't match. Ask for clarification.	"Thank you for the prompt/ test question. There appear to be differences between the IEP objective and prompt/test question. Would you please help me understand why there are differences?"	

Template for Evaluating an Objective (valid word problem objective example)

Steps		Enter your information
Step 1:	Choose your highest priority IEP objective(s).	Xxx will solve a given 1 step word problem
Step 2:	Email special ed teacher for a prompt or test question for the priority objective AND how the problem is supposed to be worked out.	"Hello. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal __, Objective __. Also, write out the steps for how the problem is supposed to be solved. This will help me understand what [Student] is supposed to do. Thank you!"
Step 3:	If you do not receive a prompt/test question, ask again in 3 business days. Wait before next step.	"Hello. I'm following up on my previous email. Would you please email me a test question or prompt for Goal ____ Objective _____. Also, write out the steps for how the problem is supposed to be solved. Thank you!"
	When received, write the prompt.	Jerry has \$20 in the bank. He wants to buy a new Xbox game that costs \$35. How much more money does he need?
	Copy how the problem is supposed to be worked out.	$\begin{array}{r} \$35 \\ -\$20 \\ \hline \$15 \end{array}$ <p>He needs \$15 more dollars.</p>

Conclusion

In this first guide on Understanding IEP Objectives we:

- Gave you 5 simple steps to unpack an IEP objective
- Provided you questions to engage the special education teacher
- Showed you how to identify an IEP objective's two basic parts
- Empowered you to more confidently participate in the IEP process

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