LEARNINGbyte
IFSP Outcomes

Greatest Challenges and Best Solutions

PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY
The purpose of this activity is to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss their greatest challenges related to outcome development and receive support while finding solutions or ways to overcome those challenges.

RESOURCES NEEDED
- Handout (copied onto different colored paper) –
  My Greatest Challenge with Writing Good IFSP Outcomes is…
- Pens and markers
- Small stickers
- Flip chart/whiteboard and markers (optional)

SPECIFIC STEPS
1. Begin the discussion by inviting the group to share several things they think their IFSP teams do well when it comes to developing IFSP outcomes with families. If available, record these "strengths" on flip chart paper or a whiteboard.
2. Next, tell participants that they are going to share their greatest challenges to writing high quality, functional IFSP outcomes but they are not going to do this out loud (yet).
3. Give each participant a sheet of paper and a pen. Have a pile of small stickers and multicolored markers available in the center of the table.
4. Provide the following instructions:

   First, you will write your greatest challenge on your piece of paper. You will have 60 seconds to record your challenge and decorate your paper using the markers to illustrate this challenge. Don't use the stickers yet. When the time is up, I will let you know and you will pass your paper to your left. Then, you will have 60 seconds to either add a different challenge (different from the one on the paper and different from the one you originally wrote on your paper). Or, if you agree with the person's challenge, you can add a sticker instead. We will repeat this process until you have your original paper back in front of you.

5. Start the timer and tell the group to begin. After 60 seconds (or longer if you sense that the group needs more time), tell the group to pass their papers to their left.

6. Once everyone has their original papers, ask the group to review their papers and share their impressions.

   Discussion Questions:
   - Does your original challenge have any stickers beside it? (Ask the participant to show the group.) What do you think this means?
   - What themes do you see among the challenges added to your paper?
   - What messages come across from how the group decorated your paper?

7. Debrief by noting common themes from the discussion, such as which challenges were the greatest (had the most stickers), which themes come up, and how the group feels as they discuss these challenges (frustrated, exhausted, upset, collaborative, etc.). Record the greatest challenges on the flip chart or whiteboard.
8. Next, challenge the group to choose a challenge to discuss in more depth. The goal of this discussion will be to develop possible solutions.

   Options: You can work together as a large group or divide up into smaller groups. Each small group could discuss the same challenge, or you could assign each group a different challenge.

9. Debrief by sharing the solutions. Record solutions on the flipchart or whiteboard, or have one participant record them so they can be typed up and shared with the group later.
10. Note which solutions need to be addressed on a system level (by administration), on a team level, or on an individual level. Develop a plan for addressing any solutions that need to be addressed and a date to follow-up with the group (perhaps at the next group meeting or by email on a certain day) to ensure follow-through.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
- **VEIPD Topic Page –** IFSP & Outcome Development
- **Quick Reference Guide –** Want to Write a Good IFSP Outcome?
- **Outcome Development Checklist –** Key Characteristics of Well-Written IFSP Outcomes
- **Article -** Tips and Techniques for Developing Participation-Based IFSP Outcome Statements BriefCASE, March 2009 | M'Lisa L. Shelden and Dathan Rush
- **Online Module -** Writing Functional IFSP Outcomes and Goals

My Greatest Challenge with Writing Good IFSP Outcomes is . . .