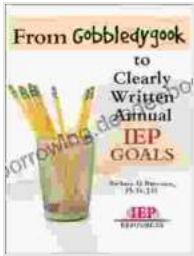


From Gobbledygook to Clearly Written Annual IEP Goals



From Gobbledygook to Clearly Written Annual IEP

Goals by Barbara D. Bateman

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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|----------------------|-------------|
| Language | : English |
| File size | : 310 KB |
| Text-to-Speech | : Enabled |
| Screen Reader | : Supported |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled |
| Word Wise | : Enabled |
| Print length | : 104 pages |
| Lending | : Enabled |

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IEP goals are essential for outlining the educational roadmap for students with disabilities. Clear and well-written goals provide direction, focus, and accountability for both students and educators. However, many IEP goals are often filled with jargon, technical terms, and ambiguous language, making them difficult to understand and implement. This article provides a step-by-step guide to help parents and educators transform gobbledygook IEP goals into clearly written, measurable, and actionable statements.

Step 1: Start with the Present Level of Performance (PLP)

The PLP provides a snapshot of the student's current academic and functional abilities. It is the foundation upon which IEP goals are built. Carefully review the PLP to identify areas where the student needs

additional support and growth. Focus on specific skills, behaviors, or knowledge that need improvement.

Step 2: Use Plain Language

Avoid using technical jargon and educational acronyms. Use language that parents and students can easily understand. Instead of "student will demonstrate comprehension of informational text," write "student will be able to answer questions about what they read." Simplify and clarify language to make goals accessible and meaningful.

Step 3: Make Goals Specific

Goals should be precise and targeted. Avoid vague or general statements. Use specific behaviors, skills, or knowledge that can be observed and measured. For example, instead of "student will improve reading comprehension," write "student will be able to answer 8 out of 10 comprehension questions correctly." Specificity ensures that everyone involved knows what the student is expected to achieve.

Step 4: Set Measurable Goals

Goals should be quantifiable and trackable. Identify specific criteria or benchmarks that will indicate whether the goal has been met. Use measurable terms such as "percentage of correct answers," "number of steps completed," or "frequency of target behavior." Measurability allows for objective evaluation of progress and accountability.

Step 5: Ensure Goals Are Achievable

Goals should be challenging but realistic. Avoid setting goals that are too ambitious or unattainable. Consider the student's current abilities,

resources, and support systems. Break down large goals into smaller, more manageable steps to make progress achievable and motivating.

Step 6: Set Timelines

Establish clear timelines for goal achievement. Specify when the goal should be reached or progress should be reviewed. Timelines provide structure and accountability and help track student growth. Include specific dates or intervals such as "by the end of the school year" or "monthly." Regular progress monitoring ensures timely adjustments and support.

Step 7: Use the SMART Framework

The SMART framework is a helpful tool for writing effective IEP goals. It stands for:

- **Specific:** Clearly defines the desired outcome
- **Measurable:** Can be tracked and evaluated
- **Achievable:** Challenging but realistic for the student
- **Relevant:** Directly related to the student's educational needs
- **Time-bound:** Has a specific deadline or progress review schedule

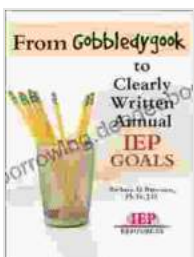
Example Transformations

| Gobbledygook Goal | Clearly Written Goal |
|--|---|
| Student will enhance phonological awareness. | Student will be able to identify and produce rhyming words. |
| Student will demonstrate | Student will be able to initiate conversations with |

| Gobbledygook Goal | Clearly Written Goal |
|--|---|
| increased social skills. | peers three times per week. |
| Student will improve self-regulation in class. | Student will be able to remain seated in class for 20 minutes without leaving or disrupting others. |
| Student will develop pre-reading skills. | Student will be able to recognize 10 sight words by the end of the semester. |
| Student will enhance fine motor coordination. | Student will be able to use scissors to cut straight lines along a dotted path. |

By following these steps and using the SMART framework, parents and educators can transform gobbledygook IEP goals into clear, measurable, and achievable statements. Well-written goals provide a solid foundation for effective educational planning, progress monitoring, and student success. By eliminating jargon, using plain language, and focusing on specific, measurable outcomes, we can empower students, parents, and educators to work together towards meaningful and impactful IEP goals.

Remember, the goal of IEP goal writing is not just to meet technical requirements but to create a roadmap for student growth and development. By using clear language and setting achievable targets, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



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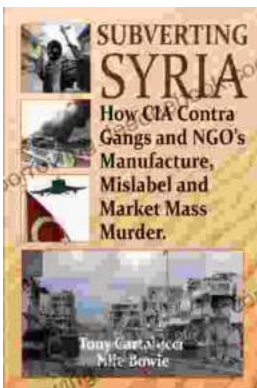
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