



Early Intervention – Outcome Based Approach Policy

Version 1.2
26 October 2021

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1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that each participant receives supports that are outcome-based and goal-focused.

1.2. Scope

This policy relates to all Down South Therapy activities and applies to all employees, contractors, students, advocates, Directors, and others who may act on behalf of Down South Therapy.

This Policy reflects requirements in:

- NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators 2021
- NDIS Act 2013
- ECIA National Guidelines – Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention 2016
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1990
- UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities 2006
- The International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health 2001 (ICF Framework)

Related Policies:

5.03 Support Planning Policy

7.03 The Family Policy

1.1. Outcome Based Approach – Outcomes and Quality Indicators

Outcome

Each participant receives supports that are outcome-based and goal-focused.

Quality Indicators

- The functional outcomes for the child and their family are based on their needs and priorities, and the skills needed to achieve those outcomes are identified through collaboration with the child and their family.
- Each child has a documented support plan that describes the interventions and their functional outcomes.
- The family is actively involved in the assessment of the child and the development and review of the support plan.
- A copy of the support plan is provided to the family in the language, mode of communication and terms that they are most likely to understand.
- The functional outcomes support the child’s meaningful participation in family and community life.
- The assessment, intervention planning and outcomes for the child and the family are measured, evaluated, and reported in ways that are meaningful to, and understood by, the family.

1.2. Definitions

Outcome Based Approach

As defined in the ECIA National Guidelines – Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention 2016, an outcome-based approach “focuses on outcomes that parents want for their child and family, and on identifying the skills needed to achieve these outcomes. ECI practitioners share their professional expertise and knowledge to enable families to make informed decisions. Outcomes focus on participation in meaningful activities in the home and community with outcomes measured and evaluated by ECI services from a child, family and community perspective”.

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| Last Review: 15 TH August 2024 | Review Period: 2 Year | | |

Outcome Focused Approach

As defined in the ECIA National Guidelines – Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention 2016, “Outcome-focused approaches moves ECI services away from focusing on their service outcomes to focusing on the impact the service is having on children, parents/caregivers and families. Outcomes are defined by as those benefits that children experience in ECI programs so they become active and successful participants across a variety of settings”.

Family-Related Outcomes

As defined in the ECIA National Guidelines – Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention 2016, Family-related outcomes include: increased sustainability of everyday routines; greater advocacy skills; sufficient family and social supports; decreased parental stress; increased family quality of life; greater empowerment; and more information about and access to other community services and resources

1.3. Providing Outcome Based Services

DST acknowledges that the three main outcomes, as defined in the ECIA National Guidelines – Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention 2016, for children relate to:

1. Their social-emotional wellbeing
2. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills
3. Use of appropriate behaviours to meet needs

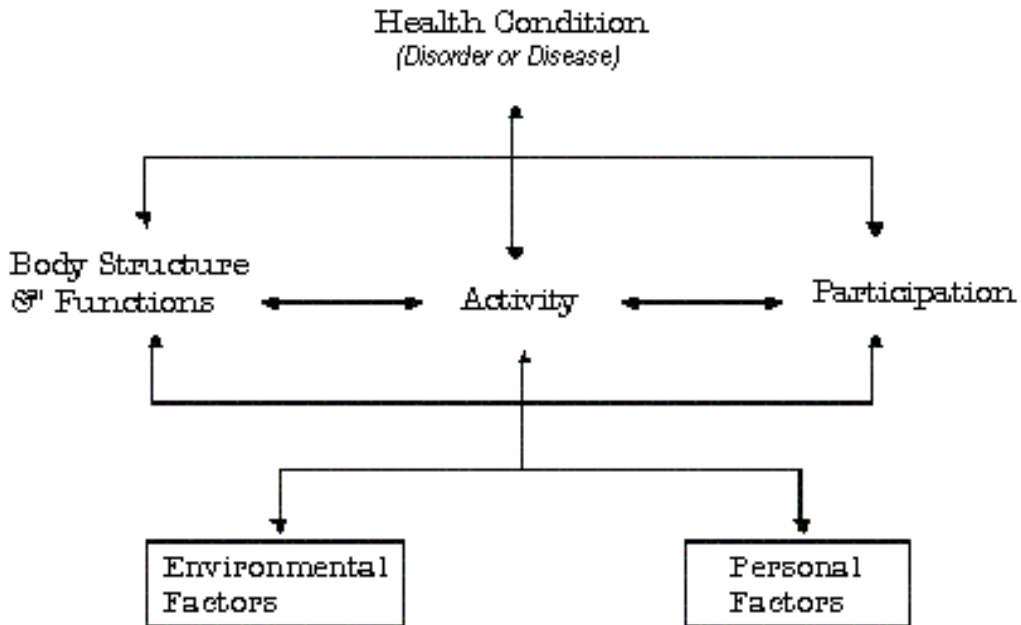
The following procedures are implemented to ensure that Down South Therapy meets its policy objective of ensuring that each participant receives supports that are outcome-based and goal-focused.

DST Procedures:

- Functional outcomes for the child and family are discussed in the onboarding and assessment phases of commencing with clients as well as throughout the service experience.
- Functional outcomes and goals are detailed in the child’s Individual Service Plan after discussion with family, caregivers and other providers where relevant.
- If the family have elected not to have an Individual Service Plan, functional goals and outcomes are formed collaboratively and detailed on assessment forms, progress notes and End of Plan Reports.
- Assessment of the child includes in-person or phone interviews with significant care givers and service providers before goals are formulated and agreed upon.
- DST uses the ICF Framework to help formulate goals and guide service delivery (See section 1.4 below).
- Individual Service Plans, when agreed upon, and other resources are provided to the family in the language, mode of communication and terms they are likely to understand.
- Functional outcomes, formulated in collaboration with the family are designed to support the child’s meaningful participation in family and community life.
- Assessment, intervention planning and outcomes for the child are measured and evaluated regularly and continual feedback if given to the family in their preferred choice of communication in language that the family/care giver can understand.
- NDIS End of Plan Reports, Assessment Reports and therapy programs are provided to, and discussed with the family so that they are meaningful to and understood by the family.
- Therapist’s document and discuss with the family any barriers that prevent goal achievement in an effort to help overcome them to enhance success of the child and family.
- DST staff are trained in using the ICF model as well as outcome-based goal setting and reporting.
- Discipline specific assessment forms incorporate the ICF or aspects of the ICF to assist in outcome-based goal setting.

1.4. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health 2001 (ICF)

The following model is taken into consideration by therapists when formulating functional outcomes and planning service delivery with DST clients.



1.5. Review of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis. However, if at any time the legislative, policy or funding environment is so altered that the policy is no longer appropriate in its current form, the policy will be reviewed immediately and amended accordingly.