

Present Levels of Functional Performance

An Example for a Student with High Support Needs

Josie

Overview

Josie is a 19-year-old student with multiple disabilities who is in 10th grade. She uses a wheelchair and has been given a label of severe cognitive disability. She likes sports, especially baseball (the Chicago Cubs), listening to music (Broadway musicals, especially Hamilton) and watching Netflix (*Stranger Things* is her favorite).

Reading Skills

Josie uses her Dynavox to read books aloud to her. Her overall score on the IAM English/Language Arts Grade 8 was 286 or at the developing level. She will be taking IAM again this year. After reading a chapter in a book and using picture cards she can answer questions about the main idea of the chapter with 30% accuracy. She needs to learn to identify details that support the main idea of a text.

Writing Skills

Josie uses her Dynavox to participate in writing activities in the classroom. She is currently able to write simple sentences and is working on learning to write a topic sentence for a paragraph.

Math Skills

Her overall score on the IAM Mathematics test was 237 or at the developing level. She is able to solve real-world two-digit addition problems using rational numbers with the use of the calculator on her Dynavox. She needs to work on solving two-digit subtraction problems.

Communication Skills

Josie is very good at indicating when she wants help and is very verbal (using her Dynavox) about her likes and dislikes. She smiles and laughs when she is happy, feeling good, or enjoying what is going on. She likes to be in settings that are full of people, activity, and noise. When it is too quiet, she will say “Hey!” on her Dynavox to let others know. Sometimes when she is not feeling well or is unhappy, she says “Help please!” She needs to work on having conversations with other students and teachers on a particular topic.

Physical Skills

Josie uses a manual wheelchair and requires physical supports in all activities. She loves to be active and out of her chair throughout the day. She is working with a physical therapist on weight bearing activities using an EasyStand. This helps her learn to support her own weight and she is working on increasing the amount of time she can stand. This will help her transfer from the chair to the changing table. She tolerates range-of-motion exercises well and has improved in allowing hand-over-hand support for some activities.



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Vocational Skills

Josie has participated in several in-school jobs. She has worked at the student-run store (she uses her Dynavox calculator to tell students how much they owe), the coffee cart (she uses her Dynavox to take orders), and as an office assistant (she delivers papers to teachers and counselors). Her family is very active in a variety of sports, and she would love to be involved in some of the sports teams at school. Josie and her family plan to access services from the local adult service agency to support her in obtaining part-time community employment after high school.

Health Needs

Josie has a low resistance to infection and has frequent bouts of upper respiratory infections. She has a trach tube and needs to have it suctioned each day. She also has a G-tube and is fed through it three times during school hours. A nurse assists with her care. Josie is considered medically fragile and will require ongoing nursing services to support her in a supported living environment in the future.

Ability in General Education

Josie attends all general education classes with the support of a classroom assistant. Assistance is required in setting up her communication, reading, and writing supports. Assignments are adapted in academic classes to meet her needs. Josie greatly enjoys her current elective classes, including nutrition and wellness, graphic design, and introduction to 2D art. She participates in all activities with full support.

