Steps to Build a Functional Child Outcome

1. Read the informal functional outcome (e.g., eat without stuffing mouth)

2. Determine the routines involved (lunch and dinner)

3. Write "[The child] will participate in [those routines]" (e.g., *Samantha will participate in lunch and dinner*)

4. Write "…by _____ing," inserting the desired behavior (e.g., *by chewing and swallowing her food, one mouthful at a time*)

5. Write "We will know he or she can do this when _____" and add a measurable acquisition criterion (e.g., *We will know she can do this when she puts one spoon- or forkful of food in her mouth and chews and swallows it before putting the next spoon- or forkful in her mouth 4 times*)

6. Add another criterion for generalization, maintenance, or fluency, if appropriate

    a. Across routines, people, materials, places, etc. (*at both lunch and dinner*)

    b. Rate of behavior

7. Add the criterion specifying the amount of time over which the behavior needs to be displayed (e.g., *for 5 consecutive days*)

Functional Child Outcome:
Samantha will participate in lunch and dinner by chewing and swallowing her food, one mouthful at a time. We will know she can do this when she puts one spoon- or forkful of food in her mouth and chews and swallows it before putting the next spoon- or forkful in her mouth, 4 times at both lunch and dinner for 5 consecutive days.