

Verbs to Use in Writing Field Education Learning Goals

When you are writing IEP goals, choose a verb that express an action- verbs that state how students demonstrate what they will know or be able to do, or what attitudes or habits of mind they will have learned. The chosen verb should refer to a skill sequence, and describe observable and measurable behaviors.

Avoid these verbs: know, understand, appreciate, think, believe, acquire, remember, feel, value, consider, be aware of, to learn, to be comfortable, to become familiar, etc.

Below are some verb suggestions in different educational domains to consider that will help you in choosing an appropriate verb for a measurable goal. These lists come from a material called "Smart IEPs" and can be found at: www.fetaweb.com.

Verbal/Linguistic Verbs

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Adapt | Discuss | Give in own words | Prescribe | Retell |
| Address | Display | Indicate | Present | Reword |
| Amend | Distinguish | Inform | Pretend | Rewrite |
| Answer | Draft | Interview | Produce | Revise |
| Argue | Elaborate | Introduce | Publish | Specify |
| Articulate | Embellish | Invent | Question | State |
| Associate | Enrich | Justify | Quote | Suggest |
| Compose | Enunciate | Label | Read | Summarize |
| Convert | Expand | List | Recall | Synthesize |
| Convince | Explain | Listen | Recite | Teach |
| Create | Express in | Make up | Recognize | Tell |
| Critique | other terms | Memorize | Redirect | Translate |
| Debate | Extend | Modify | Relate | Transmit |
| Defend | Form | Name | Repeat | Use |
| Define | Generalize | Paraphrase | Report | Write |
| Demonstrate | Generate | Point out | Restate | |
| Describe | Give examples | Predict | Respond | |
| Devise | | | | |

Interpersonal (with others) Verbs

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Advise | Design | Identify | Perceive | Seek |
| Articulate | Discuss | Illustrate | Plan | Share |
| Assign | Display | Improve | Play | Show |
| Coach | Educate | Interpret | Practice | Solve |
| Communicate an opinion | Empathize | Interview | Present | Spell out |
| Compose | Encounter | Instruct | Project | Teach |
| Contribute | Evaluate | Justify | Receive feedback | Train |
| Create | Experience | Listen | Record | Translate |
| Demonstrate | Explain | Motivate | Relate | Write |
| | Give feedback | Organize | Role play | |

Intrapersonal (with themselves) Verbs

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Access | Concentrate | Explore | Prepare | Share |
| Advocate | Conclude | Focus | Propose | Show |
| Amend | Contribute | Illustrate | Rank | Suggest |
| Analyze | Create | Imagine | Rate | Support |
| Apply | Critique | Interpolate | Recognize | Tell |
| Appraise | Decide | Interpret | Recount | Track |
| Assess | Defend | Judge | Redraw | Use |
| Assimilate | Demonstrate | List | Reflect | Validate |
| Award | Describe | Make | Report | Write |
| Choose | Determine | Narrate | Review | |
| Communicate an idea | Discriminate | Plan | Revise | |
| Compare/ Contrast | Draw | Point out | Rewrite | |
| | Evaluate | Position | Select | |
| | Explain | Practice | Self-reflect | |