

## Writing Small Step Targets for Young Children SEND

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### Why write targets for young children with SEND?

Here are 7 of reasons why we would write small step targets for a child with SEND needs. Writing small step targets are integral to the **Graduated Approach response** for children with SEND.

1. Developing partnerships with parents
2. Showing progress
3. Sharing goals and activities with others
4. Identifying patterns of play and learning
5. Identifying next steps
6. Targeting areas of need
7. Celebration of success

**SMART targets** - SMART targets are small step targets that are:

**S** – specific, not open to interpretation

**M** – measurable, with clear language to describe observed learning and development

**A** – achievable, because they are fail safe in their approach.

**R** – relevant to the child and their family

**T** – Time Bound, using time, duration and frequency measures for success

### The Four Elements to include in a Small Step SMART Target

It helps when writing a SMART target to do so on 4 different lines like below, to get all 4 elements included.

1. **Who** – name of child
2. **Does What** – what the child is observed doing (clear language using verbs) **3**
3. **Under What Conditions** – consider prompts, materials, instructions, context.
4. **To what Degree of Success** – time, frequency and duration

Always start the 'Does What' with '**will**' and the 'Under What Conditions' with '**when**'

### Examples of SMART small step targets

Who: Ella

Does What: Will press the top of the musical box to make it open

Under What Conditions: When an adult says, 'press the top' and points to the top of the box

To What Degree of Success: Ella will do this 4 times out of 5

Who: Joshua

Does What: Will put one brick on top of another brick,

Under What Conditions: When an adult says, 'Your turn, now my turn', with 8 bricks in total

To What Degree of Success: For up to 3 turns each

Who: Alice

Does What: Will retell the beginning, middle and end of her bedtime story (Owl Babies)

Under What Conditions: When mum shows her the pictures from the story (Owl Babies)

To What Degree of Success: 5 out of 7 bedtimes

Who: Jack

Does What: Will find his teddy

Under What Conditions: When mum asks, 'Where is Teddy?' and hides Teddy under a tea towel

To What Degree of Success: twice out 5 attempts

Who: Tommy

Does What: will say or sign 'drink'

Under What Conditions: When mum shows him the cup and signs and says 'drink'

To What Degree of Success: on imitation each snack time

Who: Sally

Does What: Will walk along the table, holding the edge

Under What Conditions: When an adult supports her hips with their hands

To What Degree of Success: For up to 6 steps

Who: Patrick

Does What: Will sit on the floor

Under What Conditions: Without support

To What Degree of Success: For up to 30 seconds

Who: Bobby

Does What: Will catch the large ball

Under What Conditions: When it's rolled towards him along the floor

To What Degree of Success: 7/10 attempts

Who: Pam

Does What: will walk forward 6 steps

Under What Conditions: When her parent holds her hand and she is wearing her Pedro boots

To What Degree of Success: 6 out of 8 tries