



## Short Term Objectives & Benchmarks

An Annual goal does not include both objectives AND benchmarks. There is no mandated number of objectives or benchmarks that can be listed under each goal, though the typical number is three with the fourth stage being the annual goal itself.

**Short Term Objectives** are the intermediate knowledge and skills that must be learned in order for the student to achieve the annual goal; they are discrete components of the goal derived from task analysis of the skill.

**Examples** of Short Term Objectives:

- 1) ANNUAL GOAL: Mark will request help when frustrated with a task.  
Objective 1: Mark will state what task has frustrated him  
Objective 2: Mark will state the physical signs he associates to his frustration  
Objective 3: Mark will raise his hand when he begins to feel the physical signs he associates to his frustration
- 2) ANNUAL GOAL: Given 5 picture symbols, Mark will request an activity by pointing to the symbol of the activity he wants to do.  
Objective 1: Mark will isolate his pointer finger when locating a picture symbol  
Objective 2: Mark will point to each picture symbol when named

**Benchmarks** are the major milestones the student will demonstrate that lead to the annual goal; they often designate a time period for the behavior or skill to occur. They generally establish expected performance levels.

**Examples** of Benchmarks:

ANNUAL GOAL: Mark will sit in his assigned place for 20 continuous minutes during 1 activity.



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Benchmark 1: Mark will sit in his assigned place for 5 continuous minutes

Benchmark 2: Mark will sit in his assigned place for 10 continuous minutes

Benchmark 3: Mark will sit in his assigned place for 15 continuous minutes