

Executive Function IEP Goals — Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

17 measurable goals written to IDEA standards. Replace [student] and [date]; adjust criteria to the student's baseline.

Task initiation is the gap between knowing what to do and actually starting — a student who understands the assignment but can't get moving needs a different intervention than one who doesn't understand it at all. These 17 goals treat starting a task as its own measurable skill.

TASK INITIATION

1. [student] will begin an assigned task within [X] minutes of the direction being given, in 4 of 5 observed opportunities.
2. [student] will start an independent work task with 1 verbal prompt or fewer, across 4 of 5 observed opportunities.

WORKING MEMORY

3. [student] will complete all 3 steps of a direction given only once, without needing any step repeated, with 80% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
4. [student] will recall and use information from earlier in a lesson (a rule, a step) later in the same task, with 75% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.

ATTENTION & SUSTAINED FOCUS

5. [student] will remain on-task during independent work for [X] minutes, with no more than 1 redirection, across 4 of 5 observed opportunities.
6. [student] will refocus on a task after a distraction, with 1 prompt or fewer, in 4 of 5 observed opportunities.

ORGANIZATION & PLANNING

7. [student] will organize materials needed for a task (pencil, paper, book) before starting, with 1 or fewer reminders, across 4 of 5 observed opportunities.
8. [student] will use a simple visual schedule or checklist to complete a multi-step task independently, across 4 of 5 trials.
9. [student] will keep their workspace or desk organized enough to find needed materials, with 1 or fewer reminders, across 4 of 5 checks.

SELF-MONITORING

10. [student] will check their own work against a simple checklist (name, date, all questions answered) before turning it in, with 1 or fewer reminders, across 4 of 5 assignments.
11. [student] will identify when they've made a mistake and attempt to fix it, with adult prompting, in 4 of 5 observed opportunities.

FLEXIBILITY & PROBLEM-SOLVING

12. [student] will try a different strategy when the first approach to a problem doesn't work, with 1 adult prompt or fewer, in 4 of 5 observed opportunities.
13. [student] will transition between subjects or activities within [X] minutes of the cue, with no more than 1 redirection, across 4 of 5 observed transitions.
14. [student] will accept an unexpected change to the daily routine with no more than 1 redirection, in 4 of 5 observed opportunities.

IMPULSE CONTROL IN ACADEMIC TASKS

15. [student] will raise a hand and wait to be called on rather than blurting out an answer, in 8 of 10 observed opportunities.
16. [student] will pause and think before answering a question or starting a task, reducing careless errors, across 4 of 5 assignments.
17. [student] will complete a task at an appropriate pace without rushing through it, with 80% accuracy on the final product, across 4 of 5 trials.

Using These Executive Function Goals at Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Task initiation is its own skill, separate from understanding

A student who knows what to do but can't start needs a different intervention than one who doesn't understand the task at all.

A checklist turns self-monitoring into something concrete

"Did I check my work?" is vague; "name, date, all questions answered" is checkable.

Impulse control shows up differently in academics than in behavior

Blurting an answer or rushing through work is an executive function pattern, even when it isn't a behavior problem in the traditional sense.

Build in the pause before the accuracy

A goal that has a student pause and think before responding often improves accuracy on its own, without a separate content goal.

Executive function has no universal benchmark chart, the same as behavior. Set every "4 of 5" or 80% from this student's own baseline.

Tired of rebuilding these forms every year?

IEP Goal Writer also drafts your PLAAFP and progress notes from the same student profile — free to try at iepgoalwriter.pro