

Connecting the Dots: The Power of Important To in Part I of the Person Centered ISP

The Individual Support Plan (ISP) belongs to the person. The person gets to decide which topics they wish to discuss or not. This includes what information is included in their plan, what is Important To them, what they want to do, and how they want to be supported in the upcoming year.

Why Important To Matters

The Important To conversation is the heart of person centered planning. It helps us understand what really matters to the person - what brings them joy, comfort, and meaning.

This includes:

- People they care about
- Activities they enjoy
- Routines and preferences
- Hopes, dreams, and future plans

Keep in mind what is Important To them now may change over time.

People grow, change, and discover new interests over time. This section is not meant to be rigid or an exhaustive list. It should reflect the person's current priorities and continue to evolve with the person through updates across the ISP year.

Life Areas: A Conversation Guide

The Life Areas listed in Part I are not a checklist- they're a conversation starter and are used throughout the planning year.

- Use them to explore what's important to the person and guide the conversation.
- Listing each Life Area is not required, however the content included must reflect what's Important To/For the person from their perspective.

From Personal Profile to Plan: Connecting the Dots

The Personal Profile gives us the "why" - the context and values behind what matters.

The Outcomes give us the "where the person wants to be" - the specific, measurable steps toward a better life.

- Example: If Maria says animals are Important To her→ The outcome might be "Maria volunteers at the shelter in order to care for animals."

Not Every *Important To* Needs an Outcome

- Example: If Maria says animals are Important To her and the team suggests an outcome, Maria may choose not to have an outcome about animals in her plan.

However, every Important To that the person **wants an outcome for** should be reflected in the plan.

- Deciding which Important To items become outcomes should be a team conversation reflecting what the person wants to work on for the upcoming planning year.
- Refer to the Personal Profile during outcome development- it's your roadmap to meaningful, desired outcomes.

What is the Team's Role:

- Work together as a team to have conversations to connect what's important to the person with the person's desired outcomes.
- Ensure the Part I is complete and reflects the person and what they want.
- Part I is the result of respectful conversations with the person, and those who know them best, especially when discussing Important To.
- The Life Areas guide the discussion, not limit or dictate it.