

**Representative Observable Attributes of Functional Cognitive Abilities and
Intervention Guidelines for Cognitive Levels**

Cognitive level	1 Automatic Actions	2 Postural Actions	3 Manual Actions	4 Goal-Directed Actions	5 Exploratory Actions	6 Planned Actions
Functional cognitive abilities						
Sensory cues attended to	Subliminal cues	Proprioceptive cues	Tactile cues	Visible cues	Related cues	Symbolic cues
Spontaneous motor actions	Automatic	Postural	Manual	Goal-directed	Exploratory	Planned
Purpose/intent	Arousal	Comfort	Interest	Compliance	Self-control	Reflection
New learning	Habituates to repeated sensory cue	Approximates demonstrated postural action	Imitates demonstrated manual action	Imitates demonstrated short sequence	Discovers novel solutions via trial and error	Infers/imagines potential novel solutions
Attention span	Seconds	Minutes	Half hours	Hours	Weeks	Past/future
Intervention guidelines						
OT activities	Sensory stimulation	Gross motor exercise	Activities with repeated actions	Activities with several steps	Concrete activities	Conceptual activities
ADL: requires assistance to	Initiate & complete tasks	Initiate & complete tasks	Initiate, set up, prompt actions	Provide materials in familiar locations	Identify hazards	Provide resources
Safety: requires assistance to	Ensure Intake & skin integrity	Prevent wandering	Remove hazardous objects	Solve new problems	Issue warnings	Provide resources
Supervision required	24 hour	24 hour	Frequent checks	Live alone with daily checks	Live alone with weekly checks	None

Note: Adapted from a supplemental educational handout by C. A. Earhart for “Cognitive Disabilities Model: Theory, Assessment, and Intervention” by C. A. Earhart, D. McCraith, and L. Riska-Williams presented at a workshop on May 7-8, 2016 at the University Health Network, Toronto, Canada. Copyright © 2016, 2017 by ACLS and LACLS Committee, Camarillo, CA