

Facts about Early Intervention Colorado

Early Intervention Colorado is Colorado's overall system of early intervention supports and services for families who have infants or toddlers, from birth through two years of age. Early Intervention Colorado is funded through an annual federal grant under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Part C guarantees rights and entitlements for infants and toddlers, ages birth through two years of age, who have significant developmental delays or disabilities or have been diagnosed with a condition associated with significant delays in development and their families.

CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES - RESULTS MATTER

Authority: IDEA, Part C, 20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442

Policy

Colorado has a statewide system that meets the reporting requirements for child and family outcomes. Colorado reports outcomes data in the Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) each Spring.

For child outcomes, DDD measures and reports the percent of infants and toddlers with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) who demonstrate:

- a) Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)
- b) Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication), and
- c) Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

For family outcomes, DDD measures and reports the percent of families who report that participating in early intervention services has helped the family:

- a) Know their rights
- b) Effectively communicate their children's needs, and
- c) Help their children develop and learn.

Procedures

The Colorado system for measuring child and family outcomes data to inform early intervention practices and policies and report required outcomes data to OSEP is known as Results Matter. Results Matter is being implemented in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education that is carrying out a much larger evaluation and data collection under a federal grant for early childhood practices for children birth through five years of age. This project provides the Colorado early intervention system with important information about outcomes for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. The two components of Results Matter include child outcome data and family outcome data.

Child Outcome Data

Child progress is measured utilizing one of four tools chosen for use with infants and toddlers: High Scope Infant-Toddler Child Observation Record (COR), Creative Curriculum, The Ounce Scale, and Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Toddlers (AEPS). These tools measure the following outcomes:

- Children have positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)
- Children acquire and use knowledge and skills (including early language/communication), and
- Children use appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

Child outcome data is collected for all children who entered the early intervention system on or after July 1, 2006 and who receive early intervention services for at least six months. Ongoing assessment data is collected by early intervention service providers working with a child within eight to ten weeks of a child beginning services (status at entry), at each annual review of the IFSP and within 90 days of a child's exit from the system (status at exit). The data are tracked ongoing through online data entry systems for each tool being utilized within the early intervention system.

Aggregate information for child progress from status at entry into services to status at exit from services is analyzed and reported annually based on the following percent of infants and toddlers who:

- Did not improve functioning
- Improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers
- Improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach
- Improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers, and
- Maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers.

Family Outcome Data

Family outcome data are collected annually utilizing the family survey developed by the Early Childhood Outcomes Center. This survey measures data to determine the percent of families whose children have IFSPs and who report that early intervention services have helped their family:

- Know their rights
- Effectively communicate their children's needs, and
- Help their children develop and learn.

The survey is distributed on an annual basis to families whose children have received early intervention services for at least six months. The survey is made available to families in multiple formats, such as written and online, and in multiple languages.