

Measuring Outcomes in Early Intervention Programs Understanding How Children and Families Benefit

Early intervention works in partnership with parents of infants and toddlers to enhance their child's development and learning through everyday activities that are meaningful to the child and family.

How Do We Know Early Intervention Helps?

The federal government requires each state to report information about whether early intervention programs have positive results for children and families served. This a part of a national push for accountability – the government simply needs to show that early intervention makes a difference. This is not additional reporting about your individual child and family. It is more like a “report card” for the program itself.

Who needs this information?

The required information will be reported to the Baby Watch Early Intervention at the Utah Department of Health and to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. This information will be available to families and the general public at

www.UtahBabyWatch.org.

All reported information is grouped by local program and percentages served. No individual child or family names will be used in the reports.

Why is this information needed?

Outcomes information is required by the IDEA law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004). This information is needed to make improvements in statewide services and to justify money spent on early intervention.

What Information about my child is required?

Developmental assessment information about each child is needed to determine if progress has been made. The information includes three early childhood outcomes: (1) Children have positive social relationships, (2) Children gain and use knowledge and skills (like early communication skills, and

(3) Children take appropriate action to meet their needs.

Where will the information about my child's development come from?

Information will be gathered at the time of your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Some of this information is gathered from a formal child assessment but other information is gathered from talking with you, other caregivers, and professionals that work with your child regularly. No additional assessments are necessary.

How can I be involved as a parent?

Parents are always encouraged to be involved in their child's assessment. You know your child best! Parents, as a part of the IFSP team, help determine their child's development under this early childhood outcomes measurement process.

What information about my family is required?

The family outcomes information will be collected annually through a family survey. The information includes three family outcomes: (1) Families know their rights, (2) Families effectively communicate their children's needs, and (3) Families know how to help their children develop and learn.

Where can I get additional information?

- Talk to your Service Coordinator
- Contact Baby Watch at 800-961-4226
- Visit the Baby Watch website at www.UtahBabyWatch.org



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