

Early Intervention Colorado Child and Family Outcomes Measurements

Measuring Outcomes Helps Everyone! Without you, this process cannot be successful. Please take a moment to learn how you can help.

Why are child and family outcomes measured? Families want to know if their child is progressing and early intervention professionals want to know if the intervention strategies make a difference for your child and family. Outcome measurements also provide information that can be used to improve the overall Early Intervention Colorado program. Additionally, the data can be used in the Annual Performance Report, which is submitted to the federal Office of Special Education Programs each year. This report is available to the general public and can be found at www.eicolorado.org. **Early Intervention Colorado publicly reports on the three child outcomes and three family outcomes that were developed by national experts in early intervention.**

How can families be involved? You are an essential partner in helping to measure your child's progress. You know your child best! Share your observations of how your child gets along with family and friends, how your child learns and does new things during play, and how your child is able to get what he or she needs at home or in other settings. Filling out your Family Outcomes Survey each year also provides your Early Intervention Colorado program and the State with valuable information about how to optimally serve your child and family and others. You may talk with your child's service provider(s) about your child's and family's outcome information.

How are child outcomes measured? Early Intervention Colorado measures child outcomes by comparing how children of the same age are functioning before and after receiving early intervention services in three areas. The child outcomes focus on skills and abilities that children use to be successful in everyday activities and routines, and skills children need to be successful in future school settings.

Will your child be required to have any additional testing? Generally, the assessment, evaluation and family information gathered to determine eligibility and develop the Individualized Family Service Plan is all that is needed for the initial child outcomes measurement. Assessment information gathered for the transition to preschool helps inform the exit measurement. Additional assessments may be used to complete the information about your child's progress.

The Three Child Outcomes Are:

A child has positive social relationships.



This means that for his or her age, your child is able to:

- Build and maintain relationships with children and adults;
- Begin to control his or her emotions;
- Understand and follow rules; and
- Communicate wants and needs effectively.

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A child acquires and uses knowledge and skills.



This means that for his or her age, your child is able to:

- Engage in thinking, reasoning, remembering and problem solving;
- Show an eagerness for learning;
- Explore his or her environment and engage in daily learning opportunities;
- Show imagination and creativity in play; and
- Understand and communicate thoughts and ideas.

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A child takes appropriate action to meet his or her needs.



This means that for his or her age, your child is able to:

- Move from place to place to participate in everyday activities and routines;
- Meet his or her self-care needs (feeding, dressing, toileting, etc.);
- Seek help when necessary to move from place to place; and
- Use objects such as spoons, crayons, and switches as tools.

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The Early Intervention Colorado Child Outcomes

An outcome is a benefit experienced as a result of services and supports provided for a child or family.

How are family outcomes measured? Early Intervention Colorado measures family outcomes by asking three important questions through a ten-minute survey. The family outcomes focus on knowledge and skills gained by a family as a result of the family's involvement in early intervention services.

Where does this information come from? Information about your family is collected through a Family Outcomes Survey, which is sent to every family with a child enrolled in early intervention services for at least six months.

The Three Family Outcomes Are:

A family knows their rights.



This means someone from the Community Centered Board, Early Intervention Colorado program has helped your family:

- Know about your child's and family's rights within the Early Intervention Colorado system, which are explained in the brochure [Notice of Child and Family Rights and Procedural Safeguards in Early Intervention Colorado](#);
- Understand the roles of the people who work with your child and family; and
- Know who to call if you are not satisfied with the services your child receives.

A family effectively communicates their child's needs.



This means those involved with your child's early intervention services (service coordinator, provider(s), etc.) have helped your family:

- Communicate more effectively with the people who work with your child and family;
- Understand your child's special needs;
- Advocate for your child and family;
- Feel that your efforts are helping your child; and
- Feel like part of the team when meeting to discuss your child.

A family helps their child develop and learn.



This means those involved with your child's early intervention services have helped your family:

- Feel more confident in your skills as a parent;
- Make changes in family routines that will benefit your child; and
- Do things with and for your child that are good for his or her development.

The Early Intervention Colorado Family Outcomes

An outcome is a benefit experienced as a *result* of services and supports provided for a child or family.

When are child and family outcomes measured? Child outcomes are measured at the time your child enters early intervention services to see how he or she is doing, and again when your child leaves early intervention services to see how much progress he or she has made as a result of receiving these services. Family outcomes are measured every year when the Family Outcomes Survey is sent out, typically in the spring.

What will happen to the information that is collected? Only an overview of information is reported annually to the Office of Special Education Programs and in the local Community Centered Board, Early Intervention Colorado program annual public report. Your name and your child's name will not be attached to the information that is reported.

Where can you get more information? For more information visit the Family Members Section of the Early Intervention Colorado website at www.eicolorado.org or contact:

- Child Outcomes – State Early Intervention Colorado Community Coordinator (303) 866-5419
- Family Outcomes – State Early Intervention Colorado Early Intervention Specialist (303) 866-2506

Colorado Department of Human Services/ Office of Early Childhood/Division of Community and Family Support
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