



MEASURING CHILD OUTCOMES

Information Guide for Parents

From the Early On® Parent Involvement Committee

Early On is here to help your child with his or her process of growing and learning. It can also help *your family* to be better able to help your child grow and learn.

Part of our work is to measure how much *Early On* helps each child. We do this by checking how much your child grows and learns while he or she is in *Early On*. We call this measuring Child Outcomes.

Why do we need to measure child outcomes?

- We want to make sure that all children in *Early On* are growing and learning and reaching their goals.
- We use the information to improve *Early On*.
- We need to show the federal government that *Early On* helps all children and families. The information will show the government why they should continue to fund *Early On*.

How do we measure Child Outcomes?

We measure Child Outcomes by asking three questions:

1. Do children have positive social relationships?
(This means that for their age, they express and understand feelings; they develop trusting relationships; and they get along with family and friends.)
2. Do children acquire and use knowledge and skills?
(This means that for their age they learn and do new things and play in new ways.)
3. Do children take appropriate action to meet their needs?
(This means that for their age, they can get what they need.)

Where can I get more information?

For more information on measuring Child Outcomes contact:

Where does the information come from?

The information to measure Child Outcomes comes from you and your *Early On* team.

- You will review the results of assessments that help measure your child's development.
- You can watch your child play, to see how he or she is doing.
- You will share how YOU think your child is doing.
- Your *Early On* team will share how they think your child is doing.
- You can also ask others how they think your child is doing.

All of the information will be put together to answer the three Child Outcomes questions.

When do we measure Child Outcomes?

We measure Child Outcomes at the same time we write and review your child's plans:

- When your child comes into *Early On*, to see how they are doing at the beginning;
- When your child leaves *Early On*, to see how much progress they made.

What will happen to the information that we collect?

Early On will combine the information about all the children. Once it is combined, it will NOT have your child's name on it anywhere! Only the combined numbers will be used.

The combined numbers will help *Early On* create a picture of:

- How children in your service area are doing;
- How children in our state are doing.

The federal government will put our state information together with other states to see:

- How children across the country are doing; and
- Show Congress that early intervention is worth the money!

