

An Introduction to Child Outcomes

in Alabama's Early Intervention System



What are Early Childhood outcomes?

Child Outcomes are 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. For example:

1. Children have positive social relationships.

0-6 months:

- Smiles to a smile, voice or touch
- Laughs aloud and likes to play
- Notices strangers

6-12 months:

- Plays peek-a-boo
- Shows preference for one toy over another
- Responds appropriately to adults' moods

12-24 months:

- Gives affection; returns hugs and kisses
- Uses words or gestures to get someone's attention
- Pays attention to other children

2. Children gain and use knowledge and skills.

0-6 months:

- Looks at objects or people
- Finds partially hidden object
- Looks at a toy while holding it

6-18 months:

- Plays simple games like pat-a-cake
- Points to an object when it's named

12-24 months:

- Recognizes shapes in a puzzle board
- Imitates sounds, words or body movements
- Names five body parts

3. Children take appropriate action to meet their needs.

0-6 months:

- Responds to own name
- Stops crying when talked to
- Turns head toward nipple when offered

6-12 months:

- Uses first true words
- Touches adult or object to cause an action
- Uses gesture words such as shaking head "no"

12-24 months:

- Tries to figure out how toys work
- Walks alone and can creep up stairs
- Stands on a chair to get something out of reach
- Makes some decisions, such as what to eat or wear

How is information about my child's development gathered?

Information about your child is gathered by your child's Service Coordinator from you, from other caregivers, and from professionals who work with your child regularly. Additional information is gathered from formal child assessment that has already been done. Your child's team, including you, share input about your child's development each year through the Child Outcome Summary Process, or COS.

Why is this information important?

- It gives your EI team information that can be used to monitor your child's progress.
- It helps in monitoring the early intervention program as a whole.
- It gives you a picture of how well your child is progressing in the three outcome areas.
- It provides information for the Annual Performance Report (APR) that is required to be sent to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U.S. Department of Education.

(The APR is available to the general public and can be found on the AEIS website at rehab.alabama.gov/services/ei)

Will my child be required to have any additional testing?

No additional testing is required. Evaluation information used to determine eligibility and ongoing assessment for your child's progress provides sufficient information for understanding your child's outcomes.

How is my child's privacy protected, where does the information go, and do I have access to the information?

Only summary information is reported annually to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the U.S. Department of Education. Your name and your child's name will not be attached to the information that is reported. As part of the team, you will have access to this information.

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How can families and parents be involved?

You know your child best! You are a partner in helping to measure your child's progress. Share your observations of your child's skills in each of the child outcome areas. Describe how your child interacts with friends and family. Let your child's service providers know examples of how your child participates in typical family routines and in community activities. Tell them how your child meets their self-care needs at home. Remember, we want to know your thoughts about how your child is doing throughout the day and in different settings.

Alabama's Early Intervention System is a Division of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

For more information about Early Intervention and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, visit rehab.alabama.gov