Who needs this information?

The Department of Public Instruction, Office of Special Education, and preschool programs that serve children with disabilities are required to report on these outcomes as part of an Annual Performance Report (APR). This is required by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Summary information is available to the general public and is published annually.

How will this information be used?

ND is committed to assuring that young children with disabilities receive high-quality services and supports. This new process of measuring child outcomes will assist in improving results for all young children with disabilities. The data will be used to:

- Provide information on how programs are making difference for the children and families
- Provide information to improve early childhood special education in North Dakota
- Provide data to demonstrate results to all stakeholders at the local, state and federal level.

The Office of Special Education Program uses each state's data to determine how well the state's programs have helped young children. They submit an annual report to the U.S. Congress as required in the new IDEA law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004).

North Dakota

Early Childhood Outcomes

Project

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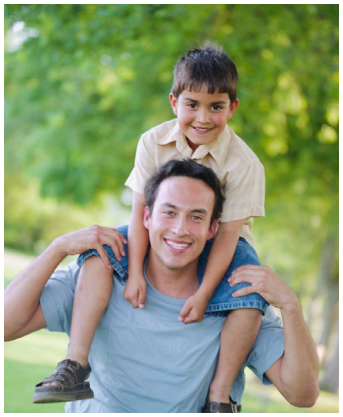

What are Early Childhood Outcomes?

The federal government requires states to report certain information about a child's progress to determine whether local school district programs are making a positive difference for young children with disabilities. This is not additional reporting about your individual child. It is more like a "report card" for the program itself.

The required information is specific to three outcome areas. An outcome is the benefit experienced as a result of a service or a program. These areas are broad and are designed to examine the variety of skills and abilities your child uses throughout the day. The evaluation process will look at your child's functioning in each outcome area at the beginning of his/her time in the early childhood special education program and then again at the end of his/her time in the program. The results should demonstrate the progress made by your child between entering and leaving the program.

The three outcome areas are:

(1) Children have positive social relationships.
(2) Children acquire and use knowledge and skills (like early communication and literacy skills).
(3) Children take appropriate action to meet their needs.

How will the outcome data be gathered?

Multiple sources of information will be used to assign a rating for your child in the three outcomes areas. Most of the information is already collected as part of determining your child's eligibility for special education and related services and developing an individualized education plan, IEP. This process will incorporate an approved state assessment tool.

When the information about my child is compiled, will our names be attached?

The outcome data gathered relating to your child will be shared in a way that protects your child's confidentiality. Data on individual children will be combined for reporting to provide an overall picture of the progress that children make during their participation in early childhood special education in North Dakota. Your name or your child's name will not be attached to the information that is reported publicly.