

Child Outcomes Summary

Things Caregivers Want to Know

1. **What is an “outcome” in this context?**

An outcome is a benefit experienced by your child or your family as a result of services.

2. **Why does anyone else need outcome information about my child?**

It is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. It is necessary to make improvements in local and statewide services, and to justify money spent on early intervention. The federal government requires each state to report about whether early intervention programs have positive results for children served. This is part of a national push for accountability. The government needs to show that federal money spent on early intervention makes a difference.

3. **What kind of information about my child is required?**

Developmental information over time is needed to determine if progress has been made. There are three outcomes reported: 1) Children have positive social relationships, 2) Children acquire and use knowledge and skills, and 3) Children take appropriate action to meet their needs.

4. **Where does this information come from?**

Information is gathered at the time of your initial and annual meetings with ILP teachers and other providers serving your child. Some of it comes from formal assessments, but most of the information comes from talking with you and observing your child.

5. **Will it require additional assessments?**

No, the only assessment information needed is already collected in order to develop the IFSP.

6. **What do you need from me?**

Parents are an invaluable part of the IFSP team. Your input into the Child Outcomes Summary process is just as important. Parents and other caregivers are the ones who know their child best and they know how the child behaves with different people and in different settings.

7. **How is our privacy protected when information is reported?**

Individual data is separated from identifying information, and combined with information from others. Only summary information that cannot be traced back to individuals is reported.

8. **Where does the information go?**

The information is reported by local programs to the Part C Program Manager in the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS). DHSS reports annually to the Office of Special Education Programs in the U.S. Department of Education. Summary information is also available to parents and the general public on a state website (see below).

9. **Where do I go if I have more questions or want more information?**

You can talk with your local Infant Learning Program representative, or contact the state Part C Program Manager:

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There is a **state ILP website** (<http://hss.state.ak.us/ocs/InfantLearning/default.htm>), and a **national website** (<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ECO/index.cfm>) with more detailed information about Early Childhood Outcomes.