

# Measuring Child Outcomes in NJ Early Intervention (NJEIS)

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), requires New Jersey to report each year on the progress of children enrolled in the early intervention system. These measures of progress, called **Child Outcomes**, focus on children's development of social skills, language development and the ability to get their needs met. Collecting information on children's progress helps everyone: families want to know if their child is making progress, practitioners want to know if the intervention strategies they are using are effective. In addition, the data collected helps the system learn what areas are working well, and what areas need improvement. Individual names and scores are never reported.

**Child Outcomes focus on skills and abilities that children use to be successful in everyday activities** and routines, including future school readiness. NJEIS uses the Battelle Developmental Inventory—2<sup>nd</sup> edition (BDI-2) to evaluate children as they begin early intervention, annually, and at the time of exiting the NJEIS system. The BDI-2 is an early childhood evaluation tool that measures a child's development through structured play-based activities, clinical observations, and parent responses to questions about their child.

Outcome= a benefit experienced as a result of services and supports provided for a child and family

**Child Outcomes are measured by comparing a child's developmental levels before and after receiving early intervention services.** The information for the initial child outcome measurement comes from the BDI-2 that was administered as a part of the evaluation that found your child eligible for early intervention services. That information was also part of the information used in developing the Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) that guided your family's services with the NJEIS. As your child and family prepare to leave early intervention a final assessment of progress is done with the BDI-2.

## 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;
- \* Communicate wants and needs effectively; and
- \* Be aware of himself and others.

### 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.

### 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.

# Measuring Family Outcomes in NJ Early Intervention

**Family Outcomes focus on the knowledge and skills gained by the family as a result of their involvement in early intervention services.** Making sure that families have a positive experience with early intervention is also an important piece of the IDEA. Specifically, early intervention should help families know their rights, effectively communicate their child's needs and help them to help their child develop and learn.

**Family Outcomes are measured by asking families to complete a confidential Family Survey.** Not all families who participate in early intervention will receive this survey, but your family may be selected to provide the NJEIS with your experiences and opinions. If your family is selected, you will receive a survey in the mail with a postage- paid return envelope. All surveys are confidential and your name is not needed. You may also fill out the survey on-line and if you need assistance in filling it out, you may request help from your Service Coordinator.

**Your input on this survey helps the early intervention system to make improvements.** It will also be used to report New Jersey's progress in meeting the needs of young children and their families. A summary of the surveys will also be posted on the NJEIS website at <http://nj.gov/health/fhs/eishome> If you have questions, please call your child and family's Service Coordinator.

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## The Three Family Outcomes Are:

### A Family Knows Their Rights



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

- \* Know about your child and family's rights within the NJEIS system, as explained in the Family's Rights document here: [http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/documents/family\\_rights.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/documents/family_rights.pdf)
- \* Understand the roles of the people who work with your child and family; and
- \* Know whom to call if you have questions or concerns about your services.

### A Family Effectively Communicates Their Child's Needs



**This means those involved with your child's early intervention services 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.