ecta Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

Family Outcomes Surveys

The original Family Outcomes Survey (FOS) was developed and validated by the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Center to assess five family outcomes and the helpfulness of early intervention. There were multiple versions of the original Family Outcomes Survey, some for parents of young children with special needs and some for parents of all young children.

In 2010, upon request from states, the ECO Center developed an updated version of the FOS for Part C programs. The Family Outcomes Survey-Revised (FOS-R): Part C was designed to better assist Part C programs in measuring family outcomes and determining the helpfulness of early intervention programs for federal reporting and program improvement purposes. The core concepts in the FOS-R remain the same as in the original FOS, with the addition of more detailed information to guide program improvement activities and a modified survey format. Both the original and revised versions have been translated into Spanish as well as additional languages. Special thanks to our colleagues in Texas, Minnesota, and Washington for assisting with these translations. The ECTA Center supports the use of both the FOS (2006) and FOS-R (2010). These tools have been tested to ensure sound psychometric integrity that can be used to document family outcomes and identify areas for program improvement. If a state would like to adapt these surveys, we encourage you to reach out to staff and the ECTA Center to discuss potential adaptations and implications for producing reliable and valid data.

For more information on the FOS, visit https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/familysurveys.asp

Please contact staff at the ECTA Center if you wish to adapt the survey: https://ectacenter.org/about/contact.asp

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Office of Special Education Programs U.S. Department of Education

Family Outcomes Survey

Part B (619) Version

The Family Outcomes Survey is designed to provide a way for you to describe your family and the ways you support your child's needs.

Instructions:

- This survey should be filled out by the person in your family who has the most interaction with preschool special education services.
- All of the responses include the word "we" or "our." This refers to your family. Usually this means parents and others who support and care for your child. But every family is different, so think of what "family" means to you when answering.
- On every page, you will be asked to answer questions like the example below:

How much does your family know about dinosaurs?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We know a little about dinosaurs		We know some about dinosaurs		We know a good amount about dinosaurs		We know a great deal about dinosaurs

- Read each question and circle the number that best describes your family right now.
- If a statement almost describes your family, but not quite, circle the number just to the left or the right. For example if you feel that the statement 5 "We know **a good amount** about dinosaurs" almost describes your family, but not quite—circle the 4.

If you do not know how to answer a question, or if you are not comfortable answering the question, skip it and go to the next question.

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Family Outcomes Survey

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S STRENGTHS, ABILITIES, AND SPECIAL NEEDS

1. Your child is growing and learning. How much does your family understand about your child's development?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We are just		We understand		We understand a		We understand a
beginning to		some about our		good amount about		great deal about
understand our		child's development		our child's		our child's
child's development				development		development

2. Some children have special health needs, a disability, or are delayed in their development. These are often referred to as "special needs." How familiar is your family with your child's special needs?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We are just beginning to understand our child's special needs		We understand some about our child's special needs		We understand a good amount about our child's special needs		We understand a great deal about our child's special needs

3. Professionals who work with you and your child want to know if the things they do are working. How often is your family able to tell if your child is making progress?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We seldom can tell		We sometimes can		We usually can tell		We almost always
if our child is		tell if our child is		if our child is		can tell if our child
making progress		making progress		making progress		is making progress

KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS AND ADVOCATING FOR YOUR CHILD

4. A variety of programs and services may be available to help your child and family. How much does your family know about the programs and services that are available?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We are just		We know some		We know a good		We know a great
beginning to learn		about the programs		amount about the		deal about the
about the programs		and services that are		programs and		programs and
and services that are		available		services that are		services that are
available				available		available

5. Families often meet with professionals to plan services or activities. How comfortable is your family participating in these meetings?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We are just beginning to feel comfortable participating in meetings		We are somewhat comfortable participating in meetings		We are generally comfortable participating in meetings		We are very comfortable participating in meetings

6. Families of children with special needs have rights, including what to do if you are not satisfied. How familiar is your family with your rights?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We are just beginning to understand our rights		We understand some about our rights		We understand a good amount about our rights		We understand a great deal about our rights

HELPING YOUR CHILD DEVELOP AND LEARN

7. Families help their children develop and learn. How much does is your family know about how to help your child develop and learn?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We are just beginning to know how to help our child develop and learn		We know some about how to help our child develop and learn		We know a good amount about how to help our child develop and learn		We know a great deal about how to help our child develop and learn

8. *Families try to help their children learn to behave the way they would like. How much does your family know about how to help your child learn to behave the way your family would like?*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We are just		We know some		We know a good		We know a great
beginning to know		about how to help		amount about how		deal about how to
how to help our		our child behave the		to help our child		help our child
child behave the		way we want		behave the way we		behave the way we
way we want				want		want

9. Families work with professionals to help their children learn and practice new skills at home or in their communities. How often does your family help your child learn and practice these new skills?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We are just beginning to help our child learn and practice these skills		We sometimes help our child learn and practice these skills		We usually help our child learn and practice these skills		We routinely help our child learn and practice these skills

HAVING SUPPORT SYSTEMS

10. Many people feel that talking with another person helps them deal with problems or celebrate when good things happen. How often does your family have someone your family trusts to listen and talk with when they need it?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We seldom have		We sometimes		We usually have		We almost always
someone to talk		have someone to		someone to talk		have someone to
with about things		talk with about		with about things		talk with about
when we need it		things when we		when we need it		things when we
		need it				need it

11. Families sometimes must rely on other people for help when they need it, for example to provide a ride, run an errand, or watch their child for a short period of time. How often does your family have someone you can rely on for help when your family needs it?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We seldom have		We sometimes		We usually have		We almost always
someone we can		have someone we		someone we can		have someone we
rely on for help		can rely on for help		rely on for help		can rely on for help
when we need it		when we need it		when we need it		when we need it

12. Most families have things they enjoy doing. How often is your family able to do the things your family enjoys?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We seldom are able to do the things we		We sometimes are able to do the things		We usually are able to do the things we		We almost always are able to do the
enjoy		we enjoy		enjoy		things we enjoy

ACCESSING YOUR COMMUNITY

13. All children need medical care. How well does your family's medical care meet your child's special needs?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Our medical care		Our medical care		Our medical care		Our medical care
meets few of our		meets some of our		meets many of our		meets almost all of
child's needs		child's needs		child's needs		our child's needs

- 14. Many families have a need for quality childcare. By this, we do not mean occasional babysitting, but regular childcare, either part-day or fullday. How well does your family's childcare meet your child's needs?
 - □ CHECK HERE IF YOUR FAMILY HAS <u>NOT WANTED CHILDCARE</u>, AND GO TO QUESTION 15.
 - □ CHECK HERE IF YOUR FAMILY HAS <u>WANTED CHILDCARE</u> BUT IT IS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, AND GO TO QUESTION 15.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Our childcare meets few of our child's needs		Our childcare meets some of our child's needs		Our childcare meets many of our child's needs		Our childcare meets almost all of our child's needs

- 15. Many families want their child to play with other children or participate in religious, community, or social activities. How often does your child participate in these activities right now?
 - □ CHECK HERE IF YOUR FAMILY HAS NOT WANTED YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AND GO TO QUESTION 16.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Our child seldom participates in the activities we want		Our child sometimes participates in the activities we want		Our child usually participates the activities we want		Our child almost always participates in the activities we want

FEELINGS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Our child's preschool program has done a poor job of helping us know how to help our child learn		Our child's preschool program has done a fair job of helping us know how to help our child learn		Our child's preschool program has done a good job of helping us know how to help our child learn		Our child's preschool program has done an excellent job of helping us know how to help our child learn

16. To what extent has your child's preschool program helped your family <u>know how to help your child learn</u>?

17. To what extent has your child's preschool program encouraged your family to be actively involved in your child's education level?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Our child's preschool program has done a poor job of encouraging us to be actively involved in our child's education		Our child's preschool program has done a fair job of encouraging us to be actively involved in our child's education		Our child's preschool program has done a good job of encouraging us to be actively involved in our child's education		Our child's preschool program has done an excellent job of encouraging us to be actively involved in our child's education

18. To what extent has your child's preschool program included your family as a full partner in making decisions about your child's education?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Our child's		Our child's		Our child's		Our child's
preschool program		preschool program		preschool program		preschool program
has done a poor job		has done a fair job		has done a good job		has done an
of including us as		of including us as		of including us as		excellent job of
full partners in		full partners in		full partners in		including us as full
making decision		making decision		making decision		partners in making
about our child's		about our child's		about our child's		decision about our
education		education		education		child's education