

**Measuring Outcomes** of early intervention services is a major initiative throughout the United States intended to understand *how* families benefit from these supports and services.



Early childhood intervention recognizes that parents and other key caregivers are the primary teachers of young children. Therefore, Army Educational & Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) supports families and caregivers in gaining the competence and confidence needed to help their child learn.

Early intervention works in partnership with parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities to enhance their child's development and learning through everyday activities that are meaningful to the child and family.

### **Why should we Measure Outcomes?**

- ◆ It tells us *how* our programs make a difference for the children and families we support and serve.
- ◆ It supplies information that we can use to improve early intervention supports and services.
- ◆ It provides data to demonstrate results to all stakeholders – to families, to our Commanders, to resource managers, and to the taxpayers.

### **What Outcomes will we Measure?**

To better understand *how* children and families benefit from early intervention, Army EDIS has adopted the three child outcomes and the five family outcomes that were developed by national experts in early intervention and accepted by the Office of Special Education Programs for implementation Nationwide. These outcomes are regarded as benefits experienced as a result of child and family involvement in early intervention.

#### **Child Outcomes**

1. Children have positive social relationships.
2. Children acquire and use knowledge and skills.
3. Children take action to meet their needs.

#### **Family Outcomes**

1. Families understand their children's strengths, abilities and special needs.
2. Families know their rights and effectively communicate their children's needs.
3. Families help their children develop and learn.
4. Families feel they have adequate social support.
5. Families are able to access services and activities that are available to all families in their communities.

### **When will we begin Measuring Outcomes?**

We will begin **Measuring Outcomes** in the Army EDIS programs during 2007. Although our EDIS programs have a rigorous system for collecting data on the critical steps in the early intervention process, this system does not currently collect or report information about the outcomes for children and families.

### **How will we Measure Outcomes?**

Rather than developing our own outcome measurement tools, the EDIS leadership decided to use the tools developed by the National Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Center. Many of the States are already using these tools to **Measure Outcomes**.

These tools include brief surveys completed with families, and they have been tested and proven meaningful for measuring outcomes in early intervention.

By using a common outcome measures, we will be able to compare the Army's services with similar services nationwide. It also allows our data to be included in national data analysis that informs lawmakers about the effectiveness of early intervention services.

As we gain momentum toward **Measuring Outcomes**, many more decisions remain. The next steps are:

- ◆ Identify the resources and other support we need to **Measure Outcomes**.
- ◆ Update the Special Needs Management Information System (SNPMIS) to support data collection and reporting.
- ◆ Design and implement training on **Measuring Outcomes**.
- ◆ Initiate a pilot program to test our methods.
- ◆ Communicate our success and lessons learned in pilot program to other EDIS programs so they may benefit from our efforts.
- ◆ Provide ongoing support and technical assistance to EDIS programs Army-wide as we continue to **Measure Outcomes**.



## **EDIS: Making a Difference for Children by Partnering with Families**



Your comments and questions about **Measuring Outcomes** are welcome. Please direct inquiries to:

For detailed information and resources, including copies of the ECO Family Outcomes Survey and COSF, see [www.the-ecocenter.org](http://www.the-ecocenter.org)

## **Measuring Outcomes in Early Intervention Services**

**UNDERSTANDING HOW CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM  
EARLY INTERVENTION**

