

ECAP: Early Childhood Accountability in Pennsylvania

What is Early Childhood Accountability in Pennsylvania (ECAP)?

ECAP is a statewide system to document how early intervention and early childhood programs are making positive differences in the lives of children and families in Pennsylvania.

ECAP is designed to gather information about the amount and type of progress that all children

in early intervention and early childhood programs are making. The information will be used to improve the early childhood learning experiences available in Pennsylvania and as a result, the development of young children from birth to age five.

What will ECAP measure?

Progress for all children in Pennsylvania's early childhood and early intervention programs will be measured on three child outcomes. These child outcomes focus on skills

and abilities that children use to be successful in everyday activities and routines and skills children need to be successful in future school settings. The three child outcomes are:

1. Children have positive social/emotional skills (including positive social relationships).

For example, children who achieve this goal:

- Build and maintain relationships with children and adults.
- Manage their emotions.
- Understand and follow rules.
- Communicate wants and needs effectively.

2. Children acquire and use knowledge and skills.

For example, children who achieve this goal:

- Display an eagerness for learning.
- Explore their environment.
- Engage in daily learning opportunities.
- Show imagination and creativity in play.



3. Children take appropriate action to meet needs.

For example, children who achieve this goal:

- Move from place to place to participate in everyday activities and routines.
- Meet their self-care needs (feeding, dressing, toileting, etc.). Their ability to meet self-care needs allows them to participate in everyday routines and activities.
- Seek help when necessary to move from place to place.
- Use objects such as spoons, crayons, and switches as tools.

How will ECAP measure progress?

Progress will be measured by comparing your child's performance from the time he or she begins an early childhood or early intervention program to the time he or she leaves that program. It is a simple process that provides valuable information for you and your child's teachers and therapists. All information gathered will be kept confidential.

Your child's skills and abilities will be

measured using progress measurement tools that include information from your child's teachers and therapists. Your observations of your child's abilities at home and in the community are part of measuring progress too. You and your child's teacher or a member of your child's early intervention team will work together to rate your child's progress on the ECAP Child Outcome Summary Form.

How can parents and families help?

You know your child best! You are a partner in helping to measure your child's progress. With your child's early intervention or early childhood team you can assure that your child has the best learning experience possible.

Share your observations of your child's

skills in each of the child outcome areas. Describe how your child interacts with friends and family. Let your team know examples of how your child participates in typical family routines and out in community activities. Tell your team how your child meets their self-care needs at home.

For more information, look for ECAP materials and resources at www.PaTTAN.net

