# Analysis and Interpretation of Child Outcomes Data Pre-work:

# Improving the quality of your child outcomes data

Purpose: to review the quality of your child outcomes data and identify strategies for improving the quality.

#### Instructions:

Please bring with you to the workshop

* Any analysis completed prior to the workshop.
* Compiled or raw data that could be reviewed during the workshop

### Quality Child Outcome Data: Pattern Checking

Before you begin to use outcome data to examine the effectives of improved practices, you will want to be sure that you are only looking at quality child outcomes data. To best participate in the workshop please do the following:

1. First, identify concerns about the child outcomes data collection process in your state that might be impacting quality. For example:
   1. The tools to measure functional performance are not sensitive to social- emotional delays in young children.
   2. Providers and practitioners are biased in their scoring intentionally rate low at entry and high at exit to make the program look better.
2. Select [patterns](http://ectacenter.org/eco/assets/pdfs/Pattern_Checking_Table.pdf) related to the identified concern and develop a format that you would like to use to review the data. If you are planning to do an analysis to look at the sensitivity of your tool to social-emotional delays you might plan to look at the average entry score by age groups and then look across the age groups to see if younger children tend to look less delayed in social emotional. You will also want to think of charts or graphs that would support review and interpretation of the data like a bar graph.
   1. For this workshop it would be best to include 3 – 5 analyzed patterns for review.
3. Conduct analyses associated with the selected patterns and create displays of the resulting data.

In the workshop you will work with a small group of other states and a TA facilitator to review and interpret your data and identify strategies that you could implement to improve the data quality.

## Resources

## ***For states using methods that do not produce ratings on a 7 or 9 point scale*** This table describes strategies for using data analysis to improve the quality of state data by looking for patterns that indicate potential issues for further investigation.

* PDF:  [Pattern Checking Table](http://ectacenter.org/eco/assets/pdfs/Pattern_Checking_Table.pdf) (July 2012)

**For states using a tool that produces ratings on a 7 point scale** (COS, TS GOLD). Use the attached document Data Patterns for COS Ratings: What to Expect and What to Question. This document provides exemplars and instructions for pattern checking.