

Frequently Asked Questions About the Child Indicators In the Arizona Early Intervention Program



Why are we collecting child indicator information?

Measuring the child indicators is a new federal requirement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Part C, for all States providing early intervention services. The information will help local, state, and federal agencies:

- Examine the effectiveness of early intervention nationally, within a state, and within a community
- Provide information for program improvement at the federal/state/local level
- Monitor the implementation of early intervention

What child indicators will be measured and reported?

The new indicators measure a child's:

- Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)
- Acquisition and use knowledge and skills (including communication skills)
- Use of appropriate action to meet their needs

These are things that all children do throughout each day within the context of families' routines and activities.

How will AzEIP collect child indicator information?

The information is gathered during the initial planning process for all eligible children 2.6 years old and younger using the AzEIP Child Assessment Summary Form. On June 15, 2006 the initial planning process contractors began gathering child indicators data.

Child indicator data will also be collected at or near the time the child exits early intervention, if the child has been in the program for 6 or more months. Therefore, the first possible time to collect exit data will be December 15, 2006. Training for teams to collect exit data will be in Fall 2006.

The form used to collect child indicator data uses information already gathered during the initial planning process and during the preparation for transition. Teams collect the most accurate information about children across a variety of settings and in interactions with a variety of people using assessment instruments, observation, and family report.

Who will be involved?

The IFSP team, which includes the service coordinator, providers, the family and other caregivers, together gather information to complete the Child Assessment Summary Forms.

How will the child indicator data be used?

For each of the indicators, the individual child data is combined with the data and ratings for other children participating in early intervention. The combined data is reported in percentages to provide an overall picture of children's progress within the local AzEIP agency and statewide. Reports will be generated that reflect the data from the child indicators by region and for the State.

Do Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) need to include outcomes related to the child indicators?

No. IFSP outcomes should reflect what is most important for the family and child within the context of typical routines and activities. However, teams may find the information discussed when addressing the ratings helpful in prioritizing functional outcomes for the child.