

The overarching goal of early intervention is:

To enable young children to be active and successful participants during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of settings - in their homes with their families, in child care, preschool or school programs, and in their community.

Children receiving early intervention services move toward this goal by demonstrating improvement in the following outcome areas.

1. Positive social-emotional skills (including positive social relationships)
2. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication)
3. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs

The Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program contracts with more than 30 early intervention agencies throughout the state of New Mexico to provide services locally.

FIT Program staff can be reached:

- by phone at 505-827-2574
- or toll free at 877-696-1472
- by fax at 505-827-2455
- or on the web at

<http://www.health.state.nm.us/ddsd/fit>

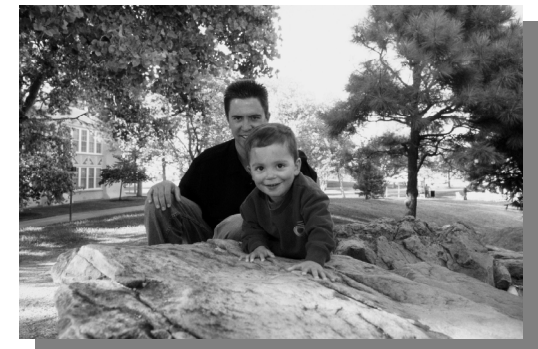
NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

(Local provider agency stamp)



**How Do We Know
Early Intervention
Services Help
Infants, Toddlers
and Families?**

**Information for
Caregivers About
Measuring Early
Childhood Outcomes**



How Do We Know Early Intervention Helps?

The federal government requires each state to report information about whether early intervention programs have positive results for children served. This is part of the national push for accountability - the government simply needs to show that money spent on early intervention makes a difference. This is not additional reporting about your individual child. It is more like a "report card" for the program itself.

Who needs this information?

The required information will be reported to the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program in the New Mexico Department of Health and to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. This information will be available to parents and the general public.

Information with your name or your child's name will never be attached to federal reports.

U.S. reporting is done in terms of percentages of all children served.

Why is this information needed?

Outcome information is required by the IDEA law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004). This information is needed to make improvements in statewide services and to justify money spent on early intervention.

What information about my child is required?

Developmental assessment information about each child is needed to determine if progress has been made. The information includes three early childhood outcomes: (1) Children have positive social relationships, (2) Children acquire and use knowledge and skills (like early communication skills), and (3) Children take appropriate action to meet their needs.

Where will the information about my child's development come from?

Information will be gathered at the time of your initial and annual Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Some of this information is gathered from formal child assessment but other information is gathered from talking with you, any other caregivers who are involved in your child's life, and professionals who work with your child regularly.

Will my child need to have any additional assessments?

No, the only assessment information needed will come from the assessment information used to develop your IFSP.

How can I be involved as a parent?

Parents are always encouraged to be involved in their child's assessment. You

know your child best! Parents as part of the IFSP team, help determine their child's development under this early childhood outcomes measurement process.

When the information about my child is gathered, will our names be attached?

No, *your name or your child's name will not be attached to any of the information that needs to be reported outside of the FIT Program.*

Is other information collected about early intervention services?

Yes. At some point during each year, some families will receive a survey. The survey will ask about how helpful early intervention services have been in supporting your family.

Where can I get additional information?

- Talk to your Service Coordinator.
- Contact the FIT Program at the numbers on the other side of this brochure.
- Visit the FIT website at <http://www.health.state.nm.us/ddsd/fit>



NEW MEXICO

Family Infant
Toddler Program