

IDEA Child Outcomes Highlights for FFY 2022

These data are updated annually at <https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/childoutcomeshighlights.asp>

What are the Outcomes?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds programs providing services designed to assist children with a range of delays and disabilities in achieving individualized developmental and functional goals. There are two types of programs. Part C Early Intervention is for children ages birth–2, and Part B Preschool is for children ages 3–5.

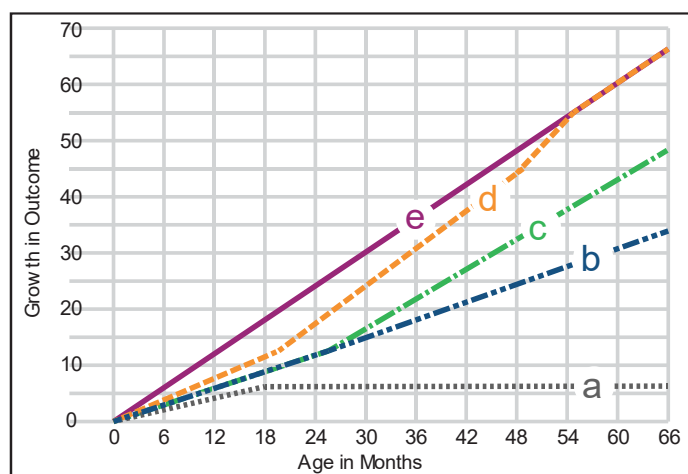
States report data annually to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the U.S. Department of Education on three child outcomes for Part C and Part B Preschool programs:

1. **Social relationships**, which includes getting along with other children and relating well with adults
2. **Use of knowledge and skills**, which refers to thinking, reasoning, problem-solving, and early literacy and math skills
3. **Taking action to meet needs**, which includes feeding, dressing, self-care, and following rules related to health and safety

How is progress measured?

The skills children master at different ages can be measured and described so that we can identify children who are developing too slowly. Children who are substantially behind their peers have developmental delays. OSEP has established five progress categories to convey developmental trajectories indicative of developmental delay. Categories a, b, c, and d represent some kind of delay in the early years, where category e illustrates typical development, with growth in outcomes and age in months in parity. States report annually to OSEP the percentage of children in each of the five progress categories (a–e).

OSEP Progress Categories as Developmental Trajectories



- a. Did not improve functioning
- b. Improved in functioning, no change in trajectory
- c. Moved closer to functioning like same-aged peers
- d. Improved functioning to that of same-aged peers
- e. Functioning like same-aged peers

From the progress category data, two Summary Statements are calculated for each outcome:

Summary Statement 1 is the percentage of children who made greater than expected growth. The summary statement is calculated from the progress categories in the following way:

$$(c + d) \div (a + b + c + d)$$

Summary Statement 2 is the percentage of children who exited at or above age expectations. The summary statement is calculated from the progress categories in the following way:



$$(d + e) \div (a + b + c + d + e)$$

National Child Outcomes Data for Children Exiting Part C and Part B Preschool in 2022–2023

Outcome	Part C Early Intervention Summary Statement 1	Part C Early Intervention Summary Statement 2	Part B Preschool Summary Statement 1	Part B Preschool Summary Statement 2
Social Relationships	66	51	80	52
Knowledge and Skills	71	42	80	49
Action to Meet Needs	69	51	79	59

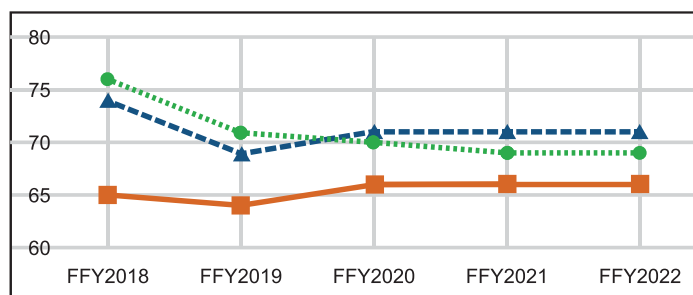
Note: Data are based on 47 Part C states and 44 Part B Preschool states. Only [states with high quality data](#) were included.

National Trends Over Time: Summary Statements by Program and Outcomes

Social Relationships 
 Knowledge and Skills 
 Action to Meet Needs 

Part C Early Intervention:

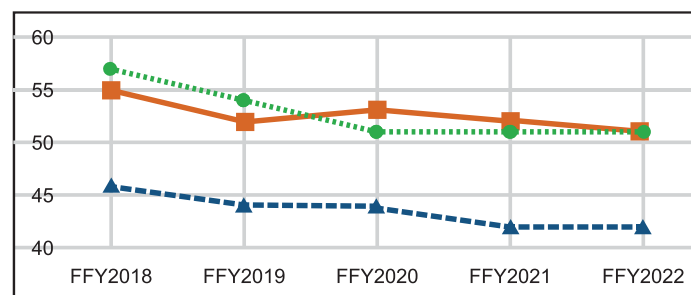
Summary Statement 1, FFY 2018–2022



Outcome	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2021	FFY 2022
Social Relationships	65	64	66	66	66
Knowledge and Skills	74	69	71	71	71
Action to Meet Needs	76	71	70	69	69

Part C Early Intervention:

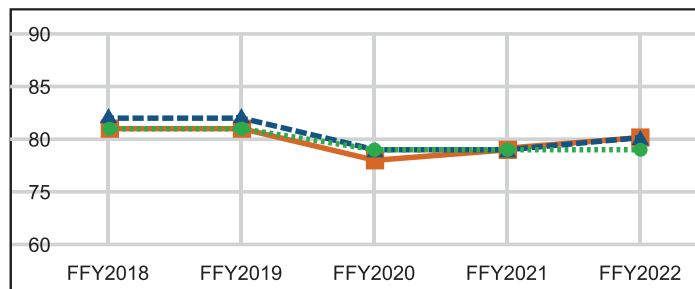
Summary Statement 2, FFY 2018–2022



Outcome	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2021	FFY 2022
Social Relationships	55	52	53	52	51
Knowledge and Skills	46	44	44	42	42
Action to Meet Needs	57	54	51	51	51

Part B Preschool:

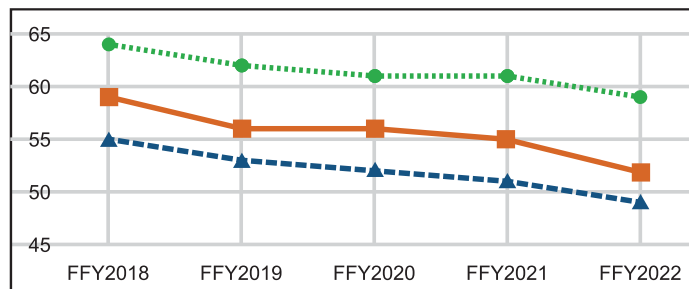
Summary Statement 1, FFY 2018–2022



Outcome	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2021	FFY 2022
Social Relationships	81	81	78	79	80
Knowledge and Skills	82	82	79	79	80
Action to Meet Needs	81	81	79	79	79

Part B Preschool:

Summary Statement 2, FFY 2018–2022



Outcome	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2021	FFY 2022
Social Relationships	59	56	56	55	52
Knowledge and Skills	55	53	52	51	49
Action to Meet Needs	64	62	61	61	59

Conclusion

For Part C Early Intervention, a comparison of national averages from FFY 2021 to FFY 2022 showed that outcomes were largely unchanged. The only change was a decrease of one percentage point in children exiting at age expectation in social relationships.

For Part B Preschool, there was no change in the percentage of children making greater than expected progress in Action to Meet Needs and an increase in Social Relationships and Knowledge and Skills. There was a relatively large decrease in the percentage of children exiting at age expectation for all three outcomes.

State Part C and Part B Preschool annual performance reports provided key reasons for declines, including impacts of COVID-19, other data quality issues, and changes to state data collection methods. Further analyses, particularly at the state and local level, are needed to understand trends.

For information on why these data differ from OSEP IDEA SPP/APR Indicator Analyses, see [Additional National Child Outcomes Data](#)

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