

An Introduction to Child Outcomes



What are the Early Childhood Outcomes?

The Early Childhood Outcomes provide information on how the Birth to 3 Program and the early childhood special education program are making positive differences in the lives of children and families in Wisconsin. Progress for all children in Wisconsin's Birth to 3 Program and the early childhood special education program (ages 3 to 6) will be measured on three Child Outcomes.

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 relationships. For example:

- *Building and maintaining relationships with children and adults*
- *Regulating their emotions*
- *Understanding and following rules*

Communicating wants and needs effectively

2. Children acquire and use knowledge and skills. For example:

- *Thinking, reasoning, remembering & problem solving*
- *Displaying an eagerness for learning*
- *Exploring their environment & engaging in daily learning opportunities*
- *Showing imagination and creativity in play*
- *Understand and communicate thoughts and ideas*

3. Children take appropriate action to meet their needs. For example:

- *Moving from place to place to participate in everyday activities and routines*
- *Meeting self-care needs (feeding, dressing, toileting, etc.)*
- *Seeking help when necessary to move from place to place*
- *Using objects such as spoons, crayons, and switches as tools*



Why is this information important?

- It tells how the Birth to 3 Program and the early childhood special education program make a difference for the children and families they support and serve.
- It gives information that can be used to improve the Birth to 3 Program and the early childhood special education program.
- It provides data used in the Annual Performance Report (APR) to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The APR is available to the general public and can be found on the WI Department of Health Services and WI Department of Public Instruction websites.

How is information about my child's development gathered?

Information about your child is gathered by your child's service provider, from you, and from other caregivers and professionals who work with your child regularly. Additional information is gathered from formal child assessment.

How can parents and families be involved?

You know your child best! You are a partner in helping to measure your child's progress. 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 child's service providers know examples of how your child participates in typical family routines and in community activities. Tell them how your child meets their self-care needs at home.

Will my child be required to have any additional testing?

No additional testing is required. Evaluation information used to determine eligibility and ongoing assessment for your child's progress provides sufficient information for understanding your child's outcomes.

How is my child's privacy protected, where does the information go, and do I have access to the information?

Only summary information is reported annually to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the U.S. Department of Education. Your name and your child's name will not be attached to the information that is reported. Talk with your child's service providers about your child's outcome information.

For more information about child outcomes, contact:

Birth to Age 3

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Birth to 3 Program

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/indicators.htm>

Ages 3 to 6

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Special Education Team

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/about/state-performance-plan/indicators/7-preschool-outcomes>

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