**Family Participation in the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Process**

As a parent of a child in the Early Intervention Program (Part C services of IDEA), you want to be sure that these services are helping your child develop and learn. **One way to learn about your child’s progress is through gathering information on three child outcomes.**

These outcomes will help you know how well your child is developing and participating in everyday routines & activities at home and/or in the community. As the parent, you are a critical part of your child’s development and education, so we need the family to be part of the outcome measurement process.

The following outcomes, developed by the U.S. Department of Education, are used by all Early Intervention programs to measure young children’s progress. While Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) family outcomes and goals are written specifically for your child, these three child outcomes are the same for everyone.

1. **Gaining positive social emotional skills.** This outcome measures how children interact and play with their family, other adults, and other children.
2. **Learning and using new knowledge and skills**. This outcome measures how children learn and use communication skills and problem-solving.
3. **Using appropriate behaviors to meet their needs**. This outcome measures how children gradually become more independent by learning how to move from place to place, feed themselves, and take care of basic needs.

The COS process is a team discussion. While professionals have expertise in working with children, you are the expert on your own child. You have information about your child that cannot be gathered through any other method other than to hear it directly from you.

By sharing your observations of your child, you will be helping your Early Intervention service providers understand your child’s strengths and needs. You will help your IFSP team understand how your child is functioning & progressing on the three child outcomes and what skills need improvement.

The data collected during the COS process helps measure the effectiveness of involvement in the Part C program.

\**Adapted from the “Family Guide to Participating in Child Outcomes Summary”.*

  