

How can I be involved?

ESS recognizes that parents and other key caregivers are the primary teachers of young children. You know your child best and we need your input to help your child develop and learn. ESS also encourages parents to be involved at all levels. Ask your service coordinator for ways you can get involved.

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

No, only summary data will be reported. Your name or your child's name will not be attached to the information that is reported.

What other information is collected about early supports and services (ESS)?

The Annual Performance Report contains information about many areas including the following:

- How services have helped families (in addition to the child)
- How effectively the state locates young children who are eligible for services;
- How services are being provided; and
- How children transition when moving out of early supports and services when a child becomes three years old.

For more information about child outcomes and the Annual Performance Report, contact:
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The Benefits of Family-Centered Early Supports and Services

An Introduction to Child Outcomes



**NH Department of Health & Human Services,
Bureau of Developmental Services
Family-Centered Early Supports and Services**

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What are early childhood outcomes and why are they important?

Family Centered Early Supports and Services (ESS) is here to help you and your child. In order to measure the effectiveness of ESS, we collect information regarding the benefits of your family's participation in the program. We do this by measuring outcomes. An outcome is the benefit experienced as a result of a service or a program. NH has identified three child outcome categories that look at how children grow and learn.

The three child outcome areas are:

- Children have positive social relationships.
- Children acquire and use knowledge and skills.
- Children take appropriate action to meet their needs.

How is this information used?

- It tells us how our ESS programs make a difference for the children and families we support and serve
- It gives us information that we can use to improve ESS
- It provides data to be used in the Annual Performance Report (APR), which shows the government that the money spent on ESS makes a difference. The APR is available to the general public and published annually

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

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 be required to have any additional testing?

Generally, the assessment and evaluation information used to determine eligibility provides enough information for understanding your child's development, therefore no additional evaluations will be necessary.