

## WV Birth to Three's Outcomes Measurement System

Measuring the outcomes of early intervention services is a major initiative throughout the United States.

West Virginia has developed a comprehensive process to measure outcomes for families and children who receive early intervention services through WV Birth to Three, under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

### Why Is Outcomes Measurement Important?

Measuring outcomes helps families and professionals to:

- Describe and value meaningful child progress over time
- Inform and guide day-to-day interactions and interventions provided by the adults in a child's life
- Make informed (data-driven) program and policy decisions
- Provide data to demonstrate results to all stakeholders – to families, to policy makers, and to the taxpayers



## What Outcomes Does WV Birth to Three Measure?



To better understand how children and families benefit from early intervention, WV Birth to Three has adopted the three child outcomes and the three family outcomes that were developed by national experts in early intervention and accepted by the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs for use by all states. These outcomes help us measure the benefits experienced by a child and family as a result of their involvement in early intervention.

### Child Outcomes

1. Children have positive social relationships.
2. Children acquire and use knowledge and skills.
3. Children take action to meet their needs.

### Family Outcomes

1. Families know their rights and effectively communicate their children's needs.
2. Families understand their children's strengths, abilities and special needs.
3. Families help their children develop and learn.

## How Does WV Birth to Three Measure Child Outcomes?

WV Birth to Three, in conjunction with the West Virginia Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council, has decided to use the Child Outcome Summary Tool (COST) developed by the National Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Center. The intent of early intervention is to work in partnership with parents of eligible infants and toddlers, to enhance their child's development and learning through everyday activities that are meaningful to the child and family. The Child Outcomes Summary Tool (COST) will be used to help an eligible child's early intervention team, including the family, to better understand the child's functional abilities within these everyday activities to plan, provide and monitor the effectiveness of services.

Professionals and families will complete the COST for each child at initial and annual IFSP meetings, and near the child's exit from WV Birth to Three.

The entry and exit measurement for each child will be collected and then reported as the percentage of infants and toddlers who achieved or made progress toward the outcomes.



## When Will WV Birth to Three Begin Measuring Child Outcomes?

- WV Birth to Three began the COST measurement process in selected parts of Regions 3, 4, 6, and 7 during 2006.
- Effective March 1, 2007, the COST process was in place for all children entering in Regions 3, 4, 6, and 7, and Barbour, Randolph and Taylor Counties.
- Effective January 1, 2008, the COST measurement process will be implemented statewide.

## How Does WV Birth to Three Measure Family Outcomes?

Early intervention recognizes that parents and other key caregivers are the primary teachers of young children. WV Birth to Three supports families and caregivers in gaining the competence and confidence needed to help their children learn.

WV Birth to Three uses a family survey developed by the National Center for Special Education Accountability and Monitoring (NCSEAM). Shortly before or after a child exits WV Birth to Three, the family survey is mailed to his/her family, in order to gather their thoughts about how early intervention has helped them and their child.

## When Will WV Birth to Three Begin Measuring Family Outcomes?

WV Birth to Three began sending the NCSEAM Family Survey to all exiting families in 2006. This process will continue through future years.

## How Does WV Birth to Three Use The Outcomes Information?

WV Birth to Three will report Child and Family Outcomes data to the public, and to the U.S. Department of Education. This data is used to make improvements in the way WV Birth to Three services are provided. By using common outcome measures, it will be possible to see the impact of WV Birth to Three services for children and families in West Virginia. WV Birth to Three data will also be included in national data analyses that inform lawmakers about the effectiveness of early intervention services.

*For more information about the Child Outcomes Summary Tool and the Family Outcomes measurement process, including reporting through the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Reports, visit the WV Birth to Three website at:*  
**[www.wvdhhr.org/birth23](http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23)**

# Making a Difference For Children and Families

*Measuring Child and Family Outcomes*

