

The Early Childhood Outcomes Center

Demonstrating Results for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers with Disabilities and their Families



Goal of the ECO Center

Promote the development and implementation of child and family outcome measures for infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities that can be used in local, state, and national accountability systems

Expected Outcomes

1. Data on outcomes for young children with disabilities that can be aggregated at the national level
2. Regular use of outcome data for documenting program effects and improving programs at the local and state level

ECO Center

5-year project funded by OSEP in October 2003

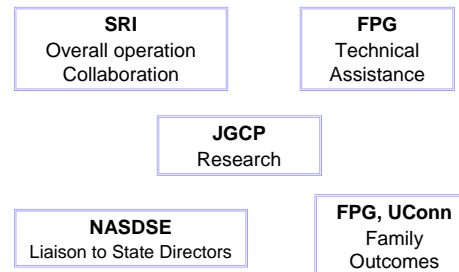
Collaboration of:

- SRI International
- Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
- Juniper Gardens Children's Project
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- University of Connecticut

ECO Center Personnel

- Kathy Hebbeler, Donna Spiker, Sangeeta Mallik (SRI)
- Lynne Kahn, Shelley deFosset, Don Bailey (FPG)
- Charlie Greenwood, Judy Carta (JGCP)
- Joy Markowitz (NASDSE)
- Mary Beth Bruder (UConn)

Responsibilities



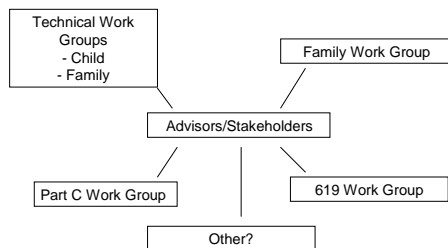
Activities

- Collaboration with stakeholders and other groups concerned with outcomes measurement
- Technical assistance
- Research on issues related to the development and implementation of outcome measures

Activities (continued)

- Technical assistance based on research
 - feeds information needs to research
 - based on what is learned from research
- Research will be very applied
 - responding to issues generated through TA and other needs
 - providing information to be communicated through TA

Structure



What we will do

- Collect information about state activities in outcomes measurement (e.g., state survey, review of state APRs)
- Develop resource documents on relevant topics
- Seek stakeholder input and build consensus for components of outcomes system
- Work intensively with 6-8 states; research and TA on development of an outcomes measurement system
- Provide TA to all states
- Develop recommendations for OSEP

Approach

- Fast track – focus on getting data for a small set of outcomes (3-5) that can be reported by all states to OSEP
- Slower track – more comprehensive outcomes system(s) that will be available to states for use in their own program improvement efforts

ECO's 11 easy steps to building a system to generate outcomes data

1. Identify overall purpose for the system (including priorities)
2. Identify outcome areas for children and families
3. Develop outcome statements
4. Formulate the evidence statements
5. Identify measurement approaches (e.g., select instruments)
6. Identify approaches for analyzing the data

ECO's 11 easy steps to building a system to generate outcomes data

7. Build a state infrastructure for collecting and reporting
8. Collect data (and submit to OSEP)
9. Analyze the data
10. Report the data
11. Refine the approach based on what was learned

1. Establish Priorities

Fast track

- Purpose of the system will be to produce data for OSEP

Slower track

- Purpose of states system(s) will be to document what programs are doing and for program improvement

2. Identify outcome areas

- Child
 - Domains (Language, cognitive, adaptive, etc.)
 - Alternative conceptualizations (Engagement, social competence, self-regulatory behavior)

2. Identify outcome areas

- Family
 - Various conceptualizations but not very different
 - Possible areas:
 - Family capacity to care for child
 - Family capacity to advocate for services
 - Family perceptions of impact of services
 - Family satisfaction with services, etc.

3. Develop outcome statements

- Child
 - The child moves in a fluid and coordinated manner to play and participate in home, school, and community settings (ECRI-MD)
 - Children show growing abilities in communication and language (Desired Results)
- Family
 - Families will understand their child's disability and know how to access supports within the community related to that disability (ECRI-MD).
 - Families will have a strong support system (NEILS).

4. Formulate the evidence statements

- What constitutes evidence of good outcomes?
- Drives the entire system
- Examples of alternatives
 - 96% of children who received 619 services made gains in communication
 - 85% of children who received 619 services achieved all of their IEP goals in communication
 - 75% of children who received 619 services gained skills in communication at a faster rate after receiving services than they had before.

- Finish other 7 steps

ECO Process

1. Develop paper/resource document presenting the options and pros and cons [and make recommendations].
2. Circulate paper among our advisors and our work groups.
3. Revise based on input.
4. Circulate paper among broader early childhood community.
5. Produce final document that contains recommendations.

- We are committed to providing stakeholders with well-organized information so they can provide thoughtful feedback on the options.
- Consensus is the goal
 - Might not be possible for the short track
 - Each state gets to set their own course in the more comprehensive track.

Current activities

- Developing papers on frameworks for thinking about the areas (child, family)
- Convening work groups to get input

- Federal Register Notice

Communication

- Web site: the-eco-center.org
- Listservs
- Meetings of the Center and other organizations

