

Where is my child's development and what comes next?

As a parent, you are the expert and know your child better than anyone else. Essential to your ongoing support is knowing where your child's present developmental achievements are and what comes next.

One way Early Steps assists you in determining how your child is learning is by gathering information in the following areas, commonly referred to as the 3 Global Outcomes:

- ◆ Child has positive social-emotional skills
- ◆ Child acquires and uses knowledge and skills
- ◆ Child uses appropriate behaviors to meet their needs

How and when is this information collected on my child?

The **Child Outcome Summary (COS)** process makes use of a 7 point scale to summarize information on your child's developmental achievements' and next steps. Using this process, you and your team will consider multiple sources of information about your child's development including your expertise, team observations, and assessment tools. We will complete your child's first COS during your initial evaluation and continue the COS discussion during your periodic Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) updates.

How will this help me as a parent?

Knowing where your child is can help you decide what family activities and routines can best support your child's continuing development. The team, including you, will be able to use this information to support your child's developmental growth by utilizing activities you are already doing throughout your day (such as feeding, dressing, diaper changes, storytime, and more) as learning opportunities.

Remember **YOU** are an important member of the team and the expert on your child...

Your input is vital to determine your child's progress and current developmental stage.

How does Early Steps report progress?

Early Steps is also using the **Child Outcome Summary (COS)** rating scale to measure child progress and report it to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). This information helps us to examine our effectiveness. Your information remains confidential and the information shared is not attached to your or your child's personal and private records.



What are Daily Routines and why do they matter?

You heard it before, routines are important for child's development, but what is a routine? Routines are a part of our daily life. They are the meaningful events, common chores, and work associated with living. Routines are not schedules or imposed tasks. Routines are all those meaningful, common activities that you and your child do every day to get through day-to-day life.

Activities like preparing for a meal, haircare, taking care of the family's pet, going out in the car, and household chores are examples of the many routines that you can turn into opportunities for learning.

Routines are great because they are:

- ♦ Consistent
- ♦ Repetitive
- ♦ Meaningful
- ♦ Predictable
- ♦ Flexible
- ♦ Easy to break into small steps

Routines occur on a regular basis and are repeated frequently helping your child practice skills throughout the day. Children learn and thrive when they actively participate in routines, in settings, and with people familiar to them. Early Steps can help you to support your child's development with meaningful and enjoyable learning strategies you can easily incorporate into your family's daily activities.

Sharing Information with other members of your Early Steps Team

Sharing your routines with your team is important. This information, along with details about your family's traditions, can be used to enhance your child's skills and lead to positive outcomes.

The following are some questions that can help you when sharing those day to day activities:

- ♦ What is your child's favorite and least favorite activity, toy, game, food and people?
- ♦ How does your child interact with you in routines like bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, etc.?
- ♦ When is your child most/least cooperative?
- ♦ What frightens your child?
- ♦ What calms your child?
- ♦ What activities are more challenging for you/your child?
- ♦ Do you or your family have a tradition or value that you consider important for your team to know?
- ♦ Who helps or supports you in caring for your child?
- ♦ What are your hopes and dreams for your child?

For more information visit: myearlysteps.com

