

The Decision Tree

Child Indicator Seeds for Success



Who Do We Rate?

In last month's update we learned Virginia will report results for 4007 of the 6183 children who received services through the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia for six months or longer and exited during FFY13 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013).

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires states to report results for "ALL children" who received services for six months or longer. Virginia is currently reporting on approximately 65% of the eligible children. And while we're off to a good start towards reaching the goal of "ALL children", there are things that you can do to help us move even closer.

What Is Needed to Determine the Exit Rating?

From the Practice Manual:

"To complete the exit ratings: Using information from parent report, an assessment instrument, observation and other sources, determine the child's status (rating) for each of the indicators. A formal assessment is not required. Instead, the provider(s) determines the child's functional status on the three child indicators through ongoing assessment (which can occur over multiple sessions). The provider must document the child's abilities by filling in an assessment instrument (such as the HELP, ELAP, etc.). The reason for documenting what has been observed through ongoing assessment on an assessment tool is not to generate age levels but to serve as an anchor for the assessment and to provide a standard measure to be used in combination with other assessment sources for determining the child's functional status on the three child indicators in relation to same-age peers. Completing the ASQ does not meet the requirement for using an assessment tool. It is not necessary to use the same instrument that was used for the entry assessment."

How About those that are "Lost to Contact"?



Every effort should be made to complete exit ratings using information the team has gathered from ongoing assessment

From the Practice Manual:

"There will be situations where it is not possible to complete the ratings because children/families leave the system without notice. Keep in mind that, even if the child and family leave early intervention unexpectedly, it may still be possible to determine the child's exit status on the child indicators based on information from contact notes. If it is not possible to complete the exit ratings, this must be documented in a contact note."

Rating Children who are "Lost to Contact":

- If a team has been working with a child whose family suddenly moves chances are there is enough information documented in contact notes gathered thru ongoing assessment to complete the exit ratings.
- Remember, *a formal assessment is not required. Instead, the provider(s) determines the child's functional status on the three child indicators through ongoing assessment (which can occur over multiple sessions).*

How About those that are
DEC Recommended Practices (2005) tell us "Early childhood assessment is a flexible, collaborative decision-making process in which teams of parents and professionals repeatedly revise their judgments and reach consensus..."
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