

Something New for Families



State of Florida
Department of Education

The goal of early intervention and preschool programs is to improve the lives of young children, including children with disabilities, and their families. Florida's Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Bureau of Early Steps, and the Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, want to make sure that we are providing high quality programs. One way for us to know whether our programs are making a difference is to measure the progress that children make during their time in these programs. Another way is obtain input from families. We want to tell you about how we will be collecting this information.

How will we measure children's progress?

We will assess every child in the Early Steps program and in the school districts' preschool programs for children with disabilities. We will use an assessment called the Battelle Developmental Inventory, 2nd Edition (BDI-2).

What does the BDI-2 measure?

It measures children's social skills, communication skills, motor skills, cognitive/thinking skills, and self-help skills.

When will this happen?

We will assess children when they begin one of the programs and again when they leave the program.

How will we gather information from families?

We will ask families to fill out a survey.

How will we use this information?

We will report overall information on children's progress and family input to the federal government, to local programs, and to the public. This information helps federal, state, and local agencies determine how effective our programs are and how they can be improved. We will not report information on any individual child or family.

Where can families get more information on program quality?

Every year, information on Early Steps and on the school districts' programs is put in a report called the *Annual Performance Report*. These reports are posted on the following Web sites:

- The Early Steps Web site at <http://www.cms-kids.com/earlysteps/reports/index.html>
- The Department of Education Web site at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/>

Where can families find local contact information?

Local Early Steps

<http://www.cms-kids.com/contact/earlysteps.pdf>

School District Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities

<http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/Pre-K%2007-08.pdf>