

Measuring Children's Progress in Early Intervention and Preschool Programs

The goal of early intervention and preschool programs is to improve the lives of young children, including children with disabilities, and their families. It is important to make sure that Local Early Steps and school district preschool programs for children with disabilities are providing high-quality services. One way to know whether these programs are making a difference is to measure the progress children make during their time in these programs. The following shows how this information is collected and used at the state level.

How is children's progress measured?

The Early Steps and school district preschool programs for children with disabilities assess every child served using an individually administered assessment called the Battelle Developmental Inventory, 2nd Edition (BDI-2). Children are assessed when they begin one of the programs and again when they leave the program.

What does the BDI-2 measure?

The BDI-2 looks at developmental milestones through measurement of children's social, communication, motor, cognitive/thinking, and self-help skills.

How is this information used?

Overall information on children's progress is reported to the federal government, to local programs, and to the public. This information helps federal, state, and local programs determine how effective programs are and how they can be improved. Information is not reported on any individual child or family.

Where can families get more information?

Every year, the Early Steps State Office and the Florida Department of Education produce an Annual Performance Report. These reports are posted on the following websites:

- The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Early Steps website at http://www.cms-kids.com/providers/early_steps/reports/program_performance.html
- The Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services website at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese>

Where can families find local contact information?

Local Early Steps

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

School District Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities

<http://data.fldoe.org/ese/contacts/default.cfm?action=showList&ListID=11>

Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Bureau of Early Steps, and the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services



Florida Department of Education
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