



**Beyond Bubbles and Blocks**

Information for EI Home Visitors

**Do you know about Federal Indicator 4: Family Outcomes?**

The [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/) (IDEA) is a federal statute that ensures all children with disabilities have available to them a free and appropriate public education. Part C of IDEA outlines how early intervention (EI) services must be offered to maximize the potential of infants and toddlers and requires states to report on 11 indicators in an Annual Performance Report (APR). Indicator 4 examines the three federal Family Outcomes by gathering data on the percent of families participating in Part C who report that EI services have helped their family:

* Know their rights (4A)
* Effectively communicate their child’s needs (4B)
* Help their child develop and learn (4C)

**How do we collect this information?**

In Massachusetts, we use the NCSEAM ([National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring](https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/familyoutcomes.asp)) Family Survey as a way for families to report on their outcomes as a result of participation in Part C EI.

The EI Division identifies eligible children/families enrolled in EI for at least six months that did not fill out a Family Survey in the last year. EI programs distribute the survey on paper or online to eligible families. Families receive a unique,

individual log-in code to access the Survey online. The survey is available in multiple languages

(Arabic, Chinese–Simple, English, Haitian-Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese).

The EI Program encourages families to complete the Survey, explaining the importance of their family’s perspectives in measuring our state’s family outcomes.

**What are the Federal Indicator 4 results for 2022-2023?**

Of the 28.1% of EI families who submitted the Survey, the majority reported EI services have helped them know their rights (83%), effectively communicate their needs (79.2%), and helped their child develop and learn (90.7%). Regardless of the family’s race/ethnicity or language, the percentages were highest for 4C and lowest for 4B. In other words, of the 3 sub-indicators, families felt the most competent with supporting their child’s development and learning (4C), followed by knowing their rights (4A), and last effectively communicating their child’s needs (4B). These results, while good overall, did not meet the targets previously set by the state of 90% (4A), 85% (4B), and 93.5% (4C).

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**How do you explain the NCSEAM survey and Family Outcomes to families?**

“The NCSEAM Family Survey tells our EI program, the state and the Office of Special Education Programs how EI is meeting family outcomes in the Commonwealth. These outcomes are how well you feel you know your family rights, can communicate your child’s needs, and feel competent and confident in helping your child develop and learn.”

**How are the Family Outcomes supported in EI?**

All Massachusetts early intervention programs are supporting children and families in their day-to-day work to improve family outcomes. The 2022-2023 Federal 4 Indicator results confirm there is still progress to be made across the three family outcome areas, especially in helping families feel more confident/competent with communicating their child’s needs. An evidence-based way to make gains across family outcomes is by partnering with families by using the PIWI philosophy in conjunction with a caregiver coaching approach.

**How are you facilitating Family Outcomes in your work with families?**

* How are families made aware of their rights? How can you help families to better know and understand their rights?
* How do you provide developmental information to help families understand their child’s knowledge and skills? What do you do to help families be able to effectively communicate their children’s needs… With doctors? For potentially eligible children transitioning to Part B school services? With childcare or others in the community?
* To what extent are you supporting families in helping their children develop and learn? Are you giving families opportunities to practice strategies during your visits with specific and affirming feedback, so they feel competent and confident in carrying over strategies on their own between your EI visits?
* What can be done in your program to increase the response rate for the Family Survey?

**References**

Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA). <https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/familyoutcomes.asp>

Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP). <https://eiplp.org/family-outcomes/>