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**Beyond Bubbles and Blocks**

Tips for EI Home Visitors

**Do you know why does Massachusetts Early Intervention (EI) asks EI programs to distribute the NCSEAM Family Survey?**

Massachusetts Early Intervention is a Part C service of the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/) (IDEA), that is required to report on child and family outcomes. These federal child and family outcomes are different than the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) outcomes. The federal child and family outcomes are measured by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and reported to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). 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 Early Intervention.

The NCSEAM Family Survey reports on family outcomes. In next month’s newsletter, we will share information about child outcomes. The federal reporting requirement for Part C programs is for states to report on the percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention (EI) services have helped their family:

* Know their rights
* Effectively communicate their child’s needs
* Help their child develop & learn

**How Do We Collect this Information?**

The Early Intervention Division identifies eligible children/families that have been enrolled in Early Intervention (EI) for at least six months and did not fill out a Family Survey in the last year. EI programs distribute the survey on paper or on-line 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.

All Massachusetts Early Intervention programs are supporting children and families in their day-to-day work to improve family outcomes.

**A person holding a child on his shoulders

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**Family Engagement Tips:**

**How do I explain NCSEAM survey to families?**

“The NCSEAM Family Survey tells our EI program, and the state and federal government 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.”

[Family Outcomes – Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (eiplp.org)](https://eiplp.org/family-outcomes/)