

## **1800: EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES (ECOs)**

SoonerStart is required to report outcomes data for children served through Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as part of their Annual Performance Report (APR).

The three child outcome areas required to be reported are:

- Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)
- Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including communication skills)
- Use of appropriate action to meet their needs

### **Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Ratings:**

The ECOs utilize a 7-point scale to summarize information from multiple sources to describe a child's functioning related to a child's progress on each of the three child outcome areas required by the Office of Special Education Programs. The information may include one or more norm-referenced or curriculum-based assessments, a parent report on child's skills and behavior, progress notes of service providers working with the child, observations by a childcare provider, or other sources.

The ECO is NOT an assessment instrument. Ratings are provided for every eligible infant and toddler in the SoonerStart program according to their developmental abilities in each of the outcome areas at two points: when they begin early intervention services and when they exit the program.

All children who are less than 30 months of age at the time of the initial IFSP must be given an Entry child outcome rating. Children who are 30 months or older at the time of the Initial IFSP are not given an Entry or Exit rating because they will not receive 180 days of service (approximately 6 months) before their third birthdays.

An Entry rating on all three early childhood outcomes is required to be given as soon as possible, but no more than 10 working days following the first intervention visit. The Exit rating must be given a) within 30 days before a child's third birthday (to allow transition at 3 years) or b) or no more than 10 working days after the child's exit date that occurs prior to transition.

### ***Special Considerations:***

1. All children who receive an Entry rating must be given an Exit rating if they receive 180 days or more of services from the date of the IFSP to the last day of IFSP services.
2. A child who exits the SoonerStart program with less than 180 days of early intervention services but re-enters SoonerStart less than six months from his/her original exit date (see Re-Referral/Re-Open Procedures) keeps his/her original Entry rating.
3. A child who exits the SoonerStart program with less than 180 days of services but is re-referred more than six months from his or her exit date (Re-Referral/Re-Open Procedures) must be given a new Entry rating if the child is less than 30 months of age.
4. If a family reports that they are transferring their child to another SoonerStart site and he/she has received services for more than 180 days, the current service provider should complete the Exit rating to be entered in the EdPlan database before sending the child's information to the

receiving SoonerStart site. If the child resumes services at the new SoonerStart site, a new Exit rating is given when the child exits the program at the new site. The new rating will overwrite the prior Exit ratings given at the old site. If the family does not continue services at the new site, a new Exit rating is not given.

5. If a child transfers to another site with less than 180 days of services, an Exit rating is not given by the current provider. If services resume at the new site and the total time of services at the former site plus the new site equals 180 days or longer, an Exit rating is given when the child leaves the program.

When completing the EXIT ratings, the exit date should be the last intervention visit provided by the service provider for a child exiting SoonerStart before his/her third birthday. The EXIT date will be the child's third birthday for a child that is transitioning at age three.

### **ECO Completion for Contract Providers**

In order to comply with the timelines, SoonerStart Contract Providers completing Early Childhood Outcome ratings will submit their Entry and Exit ratings by completing an electronic version of the ECO form and sending it by email to the Lead Clinician or designated SoonerStart clerical staff, who will be responsible for entering ratings into the EdPlan database. Contract Providers are responsible to adhere to documentation timelines. Contract Providers will retain a printed copy of the ECO form to submit as documentation with their invoice for billing.

### **Role of the Family:**

The service provider giving the Entry and Exit ratings should explain ECOs to the family and give them an opportunity to participate in the ratings for their child. ECO ratings rely on information about a child's functioning across situations and settings. Parent input is crucial: family members see the child in situations that professionals do not. As members of the IFSP team, families are natural participants in the ECO rating discussion. Their role in the rating is as the child expert, while other members of the team will know child development and the skills and behaviors expected at various age levels.

Whether or not families choose to participate in the rating discussion, professionals must be able to explain why the rating is being done and what it means.

The Entry and Exit ECO ratings will be shared with public school personnel as part of the child's EdPlan record during the transition process, if written parental consent is obtained.

### **Entry and Exit ECO in EdPlan**

The date of the Initial IFSP must be entered in the Early Childhood Data page in EdPlan. It does not auto-populate. An Entry rating must be selected from the drop down box for each of the three Outcome statements. Information to support the ratings should be entered and dated. Always Save and Continue when the information is completed. The Initial IFSP date should be entered even if the child is more than 30 months of age however Entry ratings are not required.

If the child has an Entry ECO completed, the date of the last date of service should be entered regardless of the length of time the child has received services. If the services are provided less than 180 days, no rating is selected. When Saved is selected, an error message will populate that services were less than 180 days. Ignore this message and select Save and Continue at this time. A red X will populate on the Early Childhood Data page.

If the services are provided 180 days or more, an Exit rating must be selected from the drop down box for each of the three Outcome statements. Select “yes” or “no” and provide a description in the progress box for each outcome statement. Completing the Evidence to Support Ratings boxes with relevant information and where it came from in addition to a description of progress is best practice but not required.

Entry and Exit ECOs are saved in the EdPlan workspace but are not saved as a document and do not transfer to the LEA when the record is shared at transition.