

WHAT COUNTS: MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF EARLY INTERVENTION

A Guide for Families

Hawai'i's *What Counts* Initiative is measuring how children and families benefit from Early Intervention services.

WHAT do we want to measure?

The Early Intervention programs in Hawai'i have goals for all the children who receive program services. We want children to have strong social and emotional skills, to learn and do new things, and to take action to meet their own needs. We want to measure our progress toward Hawai'i's three Early Intervention Goals:

1. Children have social and emotional skills (**develop trusting relationships with the people who take care of them, get along well with family, make friends, know how to act with different people like family or strangers, understand and express feelings**).
2. Children learn and use knowledge and skills (**learn and do new things**).
3. Children take action to meet their needs (**can get what they need**).

HOW are we going to measure progress toward the Early Intervention Goals?

At every IFSP meeting, we will take a few minutes to see if your child is being helped toward the Early Intervention Goals. We will compare what your child knows and does to what children the same age usually know and do.

Why are we comparing to what most children know and can do? Because we want to put together the same information for all the children in each Early Intervention program and for all the children in Hawai'i. Comparing each child to what is expected for a child the same age helps us understand the combined information.

WHY are we measuring the benefits children get from Early Intervention?

- Our program wants to make sure that all children we serve, including your child, are making progress towards the Early Intervention Goals.
- Our program wants to know how helpful our services are to you and other families and children in our program. Our program can use the information to improve our services.

Are all Early Intervention programs participating in *What Counts*?

By October 2006, all Early Intervention programs in Hawai'i will be required to measure benefits for all children they serve.

How can you give feedback?

If you have ideas to make this process work better, please contact:

Beppie Shapiro, <i>What Counts</i> Project Director	~OR~	Kathy Kubo, <i>What Counts</i> Project Coordinator
Phone: 973-9644		Phone: 973-9643
E-mail: beppie@hawaii.edu		E-mail: kathy.kubo@fhsd.health.state.hi.us

WHAT COUNTS: MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF EARLY INTERVENTION IN HAWAI'I

Early Intervention Goals for Children

1. Children have social and emotional skills (including positive social relationships).
2. Children learn and use knowledge and skills.
3. Children take action to meet their needs.

Early Intervention Goals for Families

1. Families understand their child's abilities and special needs.
2. Families know their rights and effectively communicate their child's needs.
3. Families help their child learn and develop.
4. Families have adequate social support.
5. Families can access desired services and activities that are available to all families in their community.

Families who benefit from services are better prepared to help their children; children who benefit from services improve the outlook for their families.