



MESSAGING WORKSHOP

How to discuss your early child outcomes data (6/17/09)

- This is the *second year* that we have collected progress data. As such, these data should be seen as preliminary data.
 - Our state and OSEP understand this and expect the quality of the data to improve over time.
- Children may participate in the program for three years, but these progress data only include children who exited the program last year and participated for at least 6 months.
 - Therefore, these data may not reflect the kinds of progress observed in *all* children who participate in the program.

Other Talking Points (not applicable to everyone):

- In our state, we only have data on a small number of children, so it may not represent all children in a program.
- In our state, we just began collecting data in (DATE). This means that we only have progress data on those children who both entered and exited the program since (DATE).
- In our state, we just began collecting data in (DATE). This means that we only have progress data on those children who both entered and exited the program since (DATE). This also means that children who enter the program as babies and receive services for three years are not yet being included in the progress data, but will be in the coming years.
- In our state, these preliminary data are based on outcomes from children in only a few sites. Therefore, the data may not be a good representation of all children in the program.
- During the first year of collecting outcomes data, our state identified some challenges in the statewide database used to track children as they move across locations and over time.
 - We are working on these challenges.
 - Data includes a higher than expected rate of attrition. So, the data may not fully reflect the kinds of progress of all children participating in our state.
- During the early stages of collecting outcomes data, our state has been learning how to improve the process of data collection.
 - The early information reflects data collected using the initial guidelines and approach. We expect to see some changes in future data as we make improvements in the training and guidance about data collection.