

Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Process:

- In Kansas, the ECO system is a part of the IFSP. An ECO Descriptor Statement will be done as part of the IFSP for every initial and annual IFSP.
- An ECO exit statement (Final Progress Report) will be done upon any exit from Infant Toddler Services. A report will be completed to ensure complete data is collected on each child.

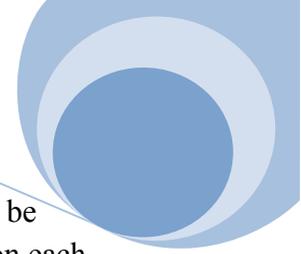
Upon exit, choose one of four exit reasons.

1. Permanent exit: any exit where the child is exiting from the ITS database, and does not meet the criteria for the other exits.
2. Local exit: an exit when a child is transferring to another local tiny-k program in Kansas.
3. Summer Birthday: used only when a child turns 3 after the last day of the local school year, already has an IEP, and that IEP will not start until the beginning of the next local school year. The ECO exit should be entered into the database no later than the day before the child's third birthday. The child will remain open in the ITS database until the day prior to the start of services on the IEP.
4. Loss of contact: used when no contact can be established with a family for 90 days. An ECO exit is made, but the child remains open in the ITS database until the current IFSP expires. If a child returns after an ECO exit due to loss of contact, the exit can be deleted (by contacting Adam North) and another rating would not be necessary until the next annual IFSP.

The exit does not require an IFSP review. However, the exit descriptor statement and all summary of progress should be discussed with parents. There are Word copies of the Final Progress Report/Outcome Descriptor Statement document available on the website in order to share summary information with parents.

*Note: The Exit Outcome Descriptor Statement may be discussed with the family at any time during the 90 days prior to third birthday as you are planning for transition out of Infant Toddler Services. This timing would depend on the knowledge of the professionals, and when final progress is relevant to discuss for the individual child. Use the day prior to the child's third birthday as the exit date for all children who will be turning 3, and ending services.

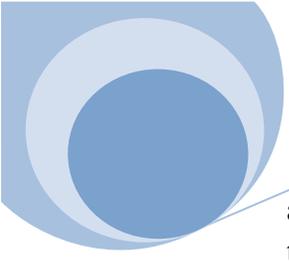
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- If the child is transferring to another tiny-k program, a Final Progress Report will be completed by the program he/she is leaving to ensure complete data is collected on each child.
- Children who transfer to another local tiny-k program do not need a new entry ECO. The new program will choose an ECO Descriptor Statement at the next annual IFSP.

Deciding a Rating and Including Parents in the ECO Process

- The ECO process is part of the IFSP process. Parents are involved from the first phone call forward as they provide information about their child's functioning and participation. Parents offer in-depth information when they participate in the Routines Based Interview or other family assessment tool.
- Introduce the parents to the Early Childhood Outcomes process at the initial meeting/intake. It is recommended that you use **A Parent's Guide to Participating in the Child Outcomes Process with Kansas Addendum**. *This document is located at http://www.ksits.org/guidance_docs.htm.* * **Note:** This conversation should be revisited at annual IFSP and in conjunction with the exit meeting.
- Providers should explain what the Outcomes are and how data is collected.
- Check with parents for understanding.
- Before the IFSP is written, a team of at least two practitioners (it is best if these are two staff members involved in evaluation/assessment) should meet and use the My Child's Story, Documenting the Basis for the Descriptor Statement Worksheet, and Decision Tree for Selection of Descriptor Statements to choose a proposed descriptor statement.
- In choosing the proposed descriptor statement, practitioners must review age expected development for the age of the child and consider how the child is functioning across opportunities and settings.
- This team will choose a proposed Outcome Descriptor Statement from among the seven statements on the IFSP. Statements are located under each of the 3 sections of My Child's Story. A statement must be chosen for each section. Sections are linked to the 3 ECO outcomes.
- At the IFSP, practitioners will discuss the proposed descriptor statement with the family. During the IFSP, discuss with the parent all the information they have provided to this point along with information you have gathered. Discuss the proposed Outcome Descriptor Statement and how all previous information led to the Statement chosen.
- To assist families understanding of typical development, the team can review age expected development for the age of the child. The team might point out specific



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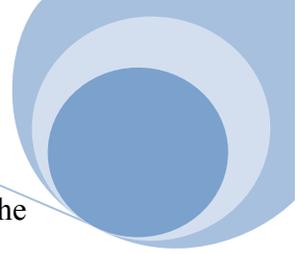
activities, skills or behaviors from the evaluation or other prior visits. Ask the family if they have seen that too; and inform them of the typical age that a child would demonstrate that skill or behavior.

- Offer parents opportunity to ask questions about the descriptor statement.
- Record Outcome Descriptor Statement on IFSP page under each section of the My Child's Story.
- Remember that choosing the Descriptor Statement is a team effort including the information the family provides at all points of the process, using accurate application of the descriptor statement criteria (refer to Definitions for Descriptor Statements and Decision Tree for guidance) and based on the child's functional skills across settings and opportunities.

IFSP Outcomes Page

- In order to further link the ECO process to the IFSP, there are four new boxes on the IFSP outcomes page (page 9).
 1. Positive Social Relationships.
 2. Acquiring and Using Knowledge and Skills.
 3. Taking Action to Meet Needs.
 4. Family Outcome
- Mark which Early Childhood Outcome(s) is the intended result of the IFSP outcome. This should be documented within the My Child's Story under that Early Childhood Outcome Area.
- More than one Early Childhood Outcome area (Boxes 1-3) may be marked as long as it appears in the appropriate My Child's Story area, and the intent of the intervention is documented for that ECO area.
- Remember that it is NOT expected (or desired) to have an IFSP outcome for each ECO area. IFSP outcomes should be developed according to family priorities and needs.
- Family Outcomes should be marked when the parent is identified as the active learner and the outcome covers the family obtaining information, gaining support, or learning of resources.

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Example: Outcome #1. My child will begin to use words to ask for the food he wants at meals, so that.....

The “so that” is the important part of thinking about the ECO Outcome area.

1. So that he can communicate with peers during lunch at daycare. This would fall under Social Emotional Outcome.
2. So that he will begin to recognize and name different items instead of calling all food “cracker”. This would be an Acquiring Knowledge and Skills outcome.
3. So that he can get more of the food he wants. This would fall under the Taking Action to Meet Needs Outcome.

*It is noted that the IFSP outcome could fall into all 3 ECO areas and they would all likely improve, but the My Child’s Story should reflect what the **intention** of the intervention is, and that is the ECO area that should be marked.

If you are struggling with the ECO process, please remember to contact your KITS TA providers. TA can help with your understanding of this process, how to include parents, and attaining inter-rater reliability among team members.