

The Challenge of Involving Team members in Rating Process

Meeting as a team provides the expertise needed to make a more valid and reliable Child Outcomes rating. To make a rating, team members must know the child's typical functioning across settings and situations, understand age-expected child development, understand the content of the 3 child outcomes, and know how to use the rating scale.

Meeting together as a team to make child outcome ratings is difficult for any number of reasons. Consider discussing the rating when team members are already together such as immediately after an IFSP or IEP meeting or after transition meetings. Another possibility could be meeting using technology such as ITV, conference call or instant messenger/group chats.

Develop a method for getting and using information from family members if they are not part of the actual team rating meeting. Family members see children in everyday settings and situations and can provide important information that other team members do not have.

A brochure for parents, Kansas Early Childhood Outcomes: What Parents Should Know has been developed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas State Department of Education. The brochure is available for organizations in Kansas by contacting Beccy Strohm at KSDE at bstrohm@ksde.org

Be sure to review and use tools developed by the Early Childhood Outcomes Center that many teams in Kansas have found helpful in determining child ratings like the Decision Tree for Summary Rating Discussions, and Documenting the Basis for the Rating Form.