



## General Information About Colorado's Early Childhood Assessment and Outcomes Program

The purpose of *Results Matter* is to promote positive outcomes for Colorado children and families by using ongoing child assessment, family outcome surveys and program quality data to inform early childhood practices and policy at all levels of the system.

The data obtained through *Results Matter* is used to describe child progress and school readiness across specific developmental and educational domains.

Assessment Domains	Global Child Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social-Emotional</li> <li>• Language</li> <li>• Literacy</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Creative Arts</li> <li>• Physical Development</li> <li>• Approaches to Learning</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social</b> Children have positive social skills including positive social relationships</p> <p><b>Cognitive and Learning</b> Children acquire and use knowledge and skills including language and early literacy</p> <p><b>Independence and Initiative</b> Children take appropriate action to meet their needs</p>

### How does Results Matter support positive results for Colorado's children?

#### Results Matter:

- Leads the state's efforts to make the measurement of child outcomes the cornerstone of Colorado's early care and education system.
- Creates a child outcomes measurement system for **ALL** of Colorado's early care and education programs, ensuring comprehensiveness and coordination.
- Creates an innovative system of using web-based technology for efficiently collecting and analyzing child outcomes data, giving teachers immediate feedback on child responses to instruction and intervention.
- Links early childhood outcomes data with K-12 outcomes measurement to better understand the long-term benefits of early care and education and intervention.

### What are the components of the Results Matter system?

**Early Child Assessment** Programs choose from a menu of approved assessment systems that are available to them at reduced costs and include customized professional development.

**Longitudinal Analysis** Child assessment results are analyzed over time to study the long term benefits of participating in early care and education opportunities. Elements include following the number of children who have been retained, require an Individual Literacy Plan, exit special education or graduate.

**Family Outcomes** Specially designed family surveys inform policy makers and program administrators about how well the system assists families in effectively supporting their child's early development.

**Service and Program Quality Measures** Child outcomes data is linked with existing program quality information such as Qualistar Ratings, NAEYC accreditation, and environmental rating scale results.

**Professional Development** A system of direct training and training-for-trainers provides participants with information and skills in observation, documentation, assessment, use of data for instructional and intervention planning, and the use of data for local program improvement.

## Who participates in Results Matter?

**45,000** children ages birth through five

**1000** classrooms in a variety of community, Head Start, and public school programs

**4000** teachers, child care providers, classroom assistants and interventionists across the state

- ⇒ A number of state and federal programs are required to participate in Results Matter because of state or federal reporting requirements. Among these are the Colorado Preschool Program, Preschool Special Education, Title I Preschool.
- ⇒ In addition to the required programs, all of Colorado’s early care and education programs have been invited to participate. It’s a testament to the commitment of Colorado’s early childhood programs to using recommended assessment practices that so many have chosen to participate. Examples include child care centers, family child care homes, teen parent programs, home visiting programs, family literacy programs, and 100% of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Colorado.

Central Outcomes of Results Matter	Benefits Reported by Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of ongoing assessment becomes standard practice in participant programs</li> <li>• Decisions regarding instruction and intervention as well as program policy are informed by data</li> <li>• Accountability reporting requirements are met through embedded everyday practices</li> <li>• Widely used assessment systems are improved and refined over time</li> <li>• Colorado’s Results Matter initiative has influenced national policy and the work of other states</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased depth of understanding of child development</li> <li>• Increased awareness of the linkages between instruction and child outcomes</li> <li>• Improved communication with families</li> <li>• Increased sense of professionalism</li> <li>• Increased sense of working toward common goals</li> <li>• Increased use of technology</li> <li>• Increased connection and coordination with K-12</li> </ul>

### *For more information...*

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Please visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/>