

Alabama's Early Intervention System

# Getting to Know Your Family

Survey Report

July 2021 – June 2022



This survey was conducted and analyzed by faculty and staff from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), including the UAB School of Public Health's Applied Evaluation and Assessment Collaborative.

**UAB School of Public Health, Department of Health Care Organization and Policy**

Julie Preskitt, MSOT, MPH, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Director of the Applied Evaluation and Assessment Collaborative

Elizabeth Taylor, MSW, LMSW, MPH  
Scientist  
Applied Evaluation and Assessment Collaborative

Maggie Enlow, MPH  
Project Director  
Applied Evaluation and Assessment Collaborative

Emily Mollenkof, MPH  
Program Manager  
Applied Evaluation and Assessment Collaborative



## Key Findings

- Survey Responses
  - Surveys were sent to 41 Early Intervention (EI) sites. Over the course of the 2021-2022 reporting year, 204 surveys were submitted from 23 sites.
  - Most families responding to the survey had children aged 33-36 months and completed the survey by themselves.
  - Half of survey respondents have been receiving Early Intervention services for 25-36 months.
- Family Concerns
  - The most commonly reported family concern was about how their child understands and uses language.
  - The next most commonly reported family concern was about their child being able to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways.
- Understanding of Developmental Needs
  - Families report significant improvement in their understanding of their child's needs after participating in EI services.
- Family and Child Impact
  - Social/Emotional/Behavior: After receiving EI services, most families agree or strongly agree:
    - Their family is better able to participate in daily activities and community events.
    - Their child can control their emotions, get along with others, and follow rules.
    - They can better see and respond to their child's social and emotional needs.
  - Language and Communication: After receiving EI services, most families agree or strongly agree:
    - Their child understands and uses language better.
    - They can better support their child in how they understand and use language.
  - Learning skills: After receiving EI Services, most families agree or strongly agree:
    - Their child had learned and used new skills related to thinking, memory, problem solving, and making sense of their world.
    - They can better support their child in learning and using new skills related to thinking, memory, problem solving, and making sense of their world.
  - Gaining Independence: After receiving EI services, most families agree or strongly agree:
    - Their child is better able to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways.
    - They can better support their child to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways.
- Overall EI Experience
  - After receiving EI services, most families agreed or strongly agreed they were:
    - Better able to talk about their child's development needs with professionals who work with their family.
    - Better able to participate in making decisions about their child with the professionals who work with their family.
    - More knowledgeable about available community resources to support their child and/or family.

## I. Demographics of Survey Respondents

### Respondents

Alabama’s Early Intervention System (AEIS) requests that each local EI program site use the Getting to Know Your Family survey with enrolled families at each of the following timepoints: first annual IFSP review, second annual IFSP review, and when exiting early intervention. Participation is strongly encouraged but is voluntary both for families and for programs. The purpose of the survey is to capture satisfaction and family and child outcomes overall and by program site. Only aggregate, statewide reports are released publicly.

The survey was distributed to each of the 41 local program sites in both online and hard copy formats. This report includes surveys collected between July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. A total of 204 survey responses were collected and analyzed and most responses were in the online format. The number and percentages of responses by AEIS are presented in the table below.

\*There were 204 total respondents to the survey, though not all respondents elected to answer each question. As a result, there may be discrepancies with the total number of counts for each question compared to the number of total respondents.

From this list, choose the name of the Early Intervention Program that serves your family?

Site Name	%	Count
AIDB Tuscaloosa Regional Center	25.65%	49
UCP of Huntsville	8.38%	16
Valley Haven School	6.28%	12
NCA/MRA	5.76%	11
AIDB Birmingham Regional Center	4.19%	8
Goodwill Gulf Coast	4.19%	8
Cahaba Center Early Intervention	3.66%	7
UCP of Northwest	3.14%	6
Children R Us, Inc.	3.14%	6
Children's of Alabama Early Intervention Services	2.62%	5
United Ability	2.62%	5
Twin Acres	2.09%	4
Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc	2.09%	4
AIDB Huntsville Regional Center	1.57%	3
AIDB Auburn Regional Center	1.05%	2
AIDB Talladega Regional Center	1.05%	2
Center for the Developmentally Disabled of North Central Alabama, Inc. (CDD)	1.05%	2
UCP of East Central	1.05%	2
Arc of Shelby	1.05%	2
AIDB Mobile Regional Center	0.52%	1
AIDB Muscle Shoals Regional Center	0.52%	1
Arc of Central Alabama	0.52%	1
EI @ UA	0.52%	1
AIDB Dothan Regional Center	0.00%	0

AIDB Montgomery Regional Center	0.00%	0
Arc of Autauga	0.00%	0
Arc of Madison	0.00%	0
Arc of Walker	0.00%	0
Children's Center of Montgomery	0.00%	0
Cindy Haber Center	0.00%	0
Marshall/Jackson MRA	0.00%	0
Project Wiggles and Giggles	0.00%	0
SCOPE 310 Authority	0.00%	0
Cullman County Center for Developmentally Disabled, Inc./T.O.D.D.'s Club	0.00%	0
UCP of Mobile	0.00%	0
Vaughn Blumberg	0.00%	0
Village Early Intervention	0.00%	0
Vivian B. Adams	0.00%	0
Watch Me Grow	0.00%	0
Gulf Coast Therapy	0.00%	0
Tri-County Early Intervention	0.00%	0
I do not know the name of my Early Intervention Program	9.42%	18
Other	7.85%	15
Total	100%	191

- The largest number of survey responses are from AIDB Tuscaloosa Regional Center (25.65%), UCP of Huntsville (8.38%), and Valley Haven School (6.28%).
- Only 23 of 41 sites submitted surveys. Eighteen of the responses selected “I do not know the name of my Early Intervention Program” and 15 of the responses included “other” as their site.

From this list, choose your child’s age (in months):

Age of Child	%	Count
Less than 6 months	2.00	4
6-12 months	1.50	3
13-18 months	8.00	16
19-24 months	15.00	30
25-32 months	22.50	45
33-36 months	35.00	70
More than 36 months	16.00	32
Total	100.00	200

- Most families responding to this survey had children aged 33-36 months (35.00%).

Is someone helping you complete this survey?

	%	Count
No, I am completing it by myself	67.74	126
Yes, my family or friend	1.08	2
Yes, a professional who works with my family (such as service coordinator, PT, OT, Speech)	30.11	56
Other please specify	1.08	2
Total	100	186

- Most survey respondents (67.74%) completed the survey by themselves.
- Many respondents (30.11%) had a professional that works with the family help them complete the survey.

How long have you received Early Intervention services?

Response	%	Count
0-12 months	34.6	55
13-24 months	15.1	24
25-36 months	50.3	80
More than 36 months	2.63	5
Totals	100	190

- Half of survey respondents (50.3%) have been receiving Early Intervention services for 25-36 months.

## II. Results

### A. Family Concerns

Families were asked about concerns they have related to specific areas of their child’s development. The most commonly reported concern from families was about how their child understands and uses language. The following questions are specific to their child’s development.

1. Do you have concerns about how your child controls their emotions, gets along with other, and follows rules?

Response	%	Count
Yes	34.83	62
No	60.67	108
Don’t Know	4.49	8
Total	100	178

- Over half (60.67%) of families reported no concerns about how their child controls their emotions, gets along with other, and follows rules.

2. Do you have concerns about how your child understands and uses language?

Response	%	Count
Yes	54.49	97
No	44.38	79
Don’t Know	1.12	2
Total	100	178

- More than half (54.49%) of families reported concerns about how their child understands and uses language.

3. Do you have concerns about how your child learns and uses new skills, like thinking, memory, solving problems, and making sense of their world?

Response	%	Count
Yes	27.37	49
No	68.72	123
Don't Know	3.91	7
Total	100	179

- More than two thirds (68.72%) of families reported no concerns about how their child learns new skills like thinking, memory, solving problems, and making sense of their world.

4. Do you have concerns about how your child is able to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways?

Response	%	Count
Yes	36.31	65
No	60.34	108
Don't Know	3.35	6
Total	100	179

- Nearly two thirds of families (60.34%) reported no concerns about their child being able to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways.



## B. Understanding of Developmental Needs

Choose the option that best describes you. Rate your understanding of your child's specific needs to help them function like other children their age...

	Very Poor %(n)	Poor % (n)	Average % (n)	Good % (n)	Very Good % (n)	Total
BEFORE getting Early Intervention services	6.82 (12)	35.23 (62)	38.64 (68)	12.50 (22)	6.82 (12)	176
AFTER getting Early Intervention services	0.00 (0)	1.69 (3)	12.99 (23)	40.11 (71)	45.20 (80)	177

- Many survey respondents (42.05%) reported that before receiving Early Intervention services, they would have rated their understanding of their child developmental needs as “Very Poor” or “Poor.”
- The majority of families (85.31%) rated their understanding of their child’s development as “Good” or “Very Good” after receiving Early Intervention services.
- Survey results demonstrate that families report substantial gains in understanding of their child’s needs after participating in Early Intervention services.

### C. Family and Child Impact

Families were also asked about new skills their child had developed and about their own personal knowledge increases related to identifying, responding to, and supporting their child’s developmental needs and skills. Families largely reported their child had increased his or her skills and that they had increased their own knowledge in how to identify, respond to, and support their child’s development. The lowest area of gain in child skills and family knowledge (still 64.16% and 91.86%, respectively) was reported in the developmental area of social and emotional needs.

#### 1. AFTER getting Early Intervention services, my family...

<i>Choose the option that best fits how you feel.</i>	Strongly Disagree % (n)	Disagree % (n)	Neither Agree nor Disagree % (n)	Agree % (n)	Strongly Agree % (n)	Total
is better able to do and enjoy daily activities and events.	1.13 (2)	0.0 (0)	10.17 (18)	54.24 (96)	34.46 (61)	177

- The majority of families (88.70%) agree or strongly agree that after getting Early Intervention services, their family is better able to do and enjoy daily activities and events.

## 2. AFTER getting Early Intervention services, my child...

<i>Choose the option that best fits how you feel.</i>	Strongly Disagree % (n)	Disagree % (n)	Neither Agree nor Disagree % (n)	Agree % (n)	Strongly Agree % (n)	Total
can control their emotions, get along with others, and follow rules.	0.58 (1)	4.62 (8)	30.64 (53)	50.29 (87)	13.87 (24)	173
understands and uses language better.	1.16 (2)	3.47 (6)	15.03 (26)	56.07 (97)	24.28 (42)	173
has learned and uses new skills related to thinking, memory, problem solving, and making sense of their world.	0.00 (0)	3.49 (6)	14.53 (25)	52.91 (91)	29.07 (50)	172
is better able to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways.	0.58 (1)	6.94 (12)	11.56 (20)	57.23 (99)	23.70 (41)	173

After receiving Early Intervention services:

- 64.16% of families agree or strongly agree that their child can control their emotions, get along with others, and follow rules.
- 80.35% of families agree or strongly agree that their child understands and uses language better.
- 81.98% of families agree or strongly agree that their child has learned and uses new skills related to thinking, memory, problem solving, and making sense of their world.
- 80.93% of families agree or strongly agree that their child is better able to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways.

## 3. AFTER getting Early Intervention services, I can better...

<i>Choose the option that best fits how you feel.</i>	Strongly Disagree % (n)	Disagree % (n)	Neither Agree nor Disagree % (n)	Agree % (n)	Strongly Agree % (n)	Total
see and respond to my child's social and emotional needs.	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	8.14 (14)	59.88 (103)	31.98 (55)	172
support my child in how they understand and use language.	0.00 (0)	0.0 (0)	6.94 (12)	57.23 (99)	35.84 (62)	173
support my child in learning and using new skills related to thinking, memory, problem solving, and making sense of their world.	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	7.60 (13)	57.31 (98)	35.09 (60)	171

support my child to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways.	0.00 (0)	1.17 (2)	6.43 (11)	60.82 (104)	31.58 (54)	171
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After receiving Early Intervention Services:

- 91.86% of families agree or strongly agree that they can better see and respond to their child's social and emotional needs.
- 93.07% of families agree or strongly agree that they can better support their child in how they understand and use language.
- 92.40% of families agree or strongly agree that they can better support their child in learning and using new skills related to thinking, memory, problem solving, and making sense of their world.
- 92.40% of families agree or strongly agree that they can better support their child to get, on their own, what they want or need in the right ways.

#### D. Overall Early Intervention Experience

Families who were either participating in an annual IFSP review or exiting the EI system were asked about improvements in their abilities to interact with professionals who work with their families. Specifically, they were asked about their ability to talk about their child’s developmental needs and their ability to participate in making decisions about their child. Families were also asked about increases in their knowledge of community resources that can support their child and family.

Because of Early Intervention services, I...

<i>Please select the responses that best reflect your opinion.</i>	Strongly Disagree % (n)	Disagree % (n)	Neither Agree nor Disagree % (n)	Agree % (n)	Strongly Agree % (n)	Total
am better able to talk about my child's developmental needs with the people who work with my family.	0.00 (0)	0.59 (1)	4.12 (7)	58.24 (99)	37.06 (63)	170
am better able to work as a team with the people who work with my family in making decisions about my child.	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	5.23 (9)	59.30 (102)	35.47 (61)	172
know more about local resources to support my child and/or family.	0.00 (0)	1.18 (2)	5.29 (9)	52.94 (90)	40.59 (69)	170

After receiving Early Intervention services:

- 95.30% of families agree or strongly agree they are better able to talk about their child's developmental needs with the people who work with my family.
- 94.77% of families agree or strongly agree they are better able to work as a team with the people who work with their family in making decisions about my child.
- 93.53% of families agree or strongly agree they know more about local resources to support my child and/or family.

### III. Stakeholder Comments

*Early Intervention was wonderful for my child and taught me and my family ways to help my child improve. He has improved tremendously and I can't thank them enough. I feel like they truly cared about my child and I am forever thankful for them.*

*We love this program and recommend to other parents!*

*We had the best experience! Cannot say enough amazing things about Early Intervention. Thank you for helping my boys!*

*Early Intervention service helped me better understand my child's growth and development. I also gained more insight on his developmental health and how to effectively assist him.*

*I love that they all cared and worked with me through it all and all were supportive and kept me informed always! We all have learned so much from them! 10/10 would recommend.*

*This has been a tremendous gift to our son and our family. Thank you to our amazing team!*

*They are amazing and I am very grateful and thankful for their help. It is wonderful for my girls and myself so I can learn to help them grow and develop.*