

Annual Report on Language and Literacy Development in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Supplemental Evaluation Instrument Data

As required by House Bill 328 of the 67th Montana Legislature and House Bill 619 of the 68th Montana Legislature

May 30, 2025



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Background

Montana's Annual Report for the language and literacy development in deaf and hard of hearing children, as required by Montana House Bill 328 of the 67th Legislature, includes the infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, enrolled in Montana Milestones Part C Early Intervention Program during the performance reporting period: July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Additionally, Montana House Bill 619 of the 68th Legislature requires the use of an approved ASL or English supplemental evaluation instrument. Montana Milestones Part C Early Intervention Program initiated this requirement for all contractors on August 15, 2024, however, Montana Milestones Part C did collect supplemental evaluation data from contractors for performance reporting period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. That information is reported below.

Montana Milestones Part C Early Intervention Program uses the following sources to determine the Child Outcome Summary Rating:

- MEISR© age anchoring tool
- Child Outcomes Summary Process
- Approved developmental evaluation instruments.
- Family member(s) input describing the child's functioning across situations and settings
- Family Support Specialist observations across settings.
- Specialists involved with the family and their assessments and observations.
- Data collected from one or more of the following supplemental evaluation instruments:
 - American Sign Language Evaluation Instruments:
 - Visual Communication Sign Language (VCSL) Checklist
 - Montana is currently providing training for proctors of this assessment
 - American Sign Language Communicative Developmental Inventory
 - Currently in Beta Testing
 - English Evaluation Instruments:
 - MacArthur Bates Communicative Development Inventory
 - Preschool Language Scales 5 (PLS 5)
 - Rosetti Infant-Toddler Language Scale
 - SKI-HI Language Development Scale
 - Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening Language & Speech
 - REEL-4: Receptive-Expressive Emergent Language

Child Outcome Data

Child Outcome #2, Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills

Baseline Rating: Acquisition of language to communicate and understand pre-academic literacy.

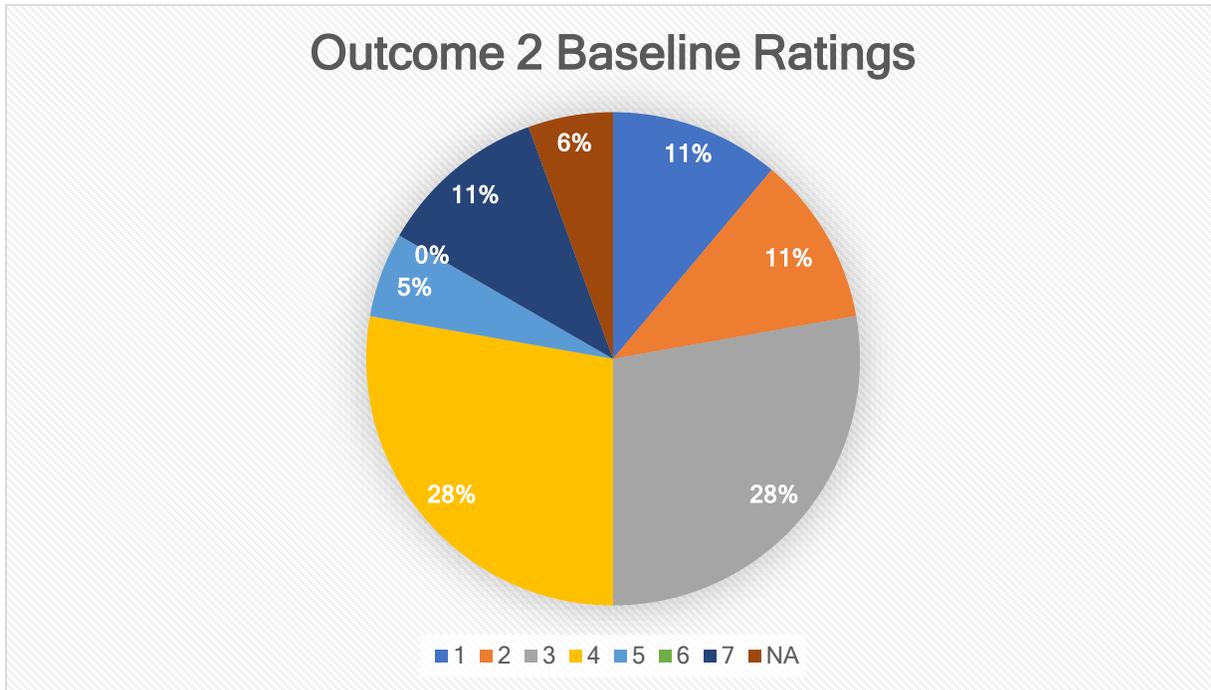
Number of children who are deaf or hard or hearing with an Individualized Family Services Plan = **18**

Number of children who are deaf or hard of hearing with an Individualized Family Services Plan and a baseline Child Outcome #2 Summary Rating = **17**

Number of children who are deaf or hard of hearing with an Individualized Family Services Plan who enrolled in the Program at age two years and nine months or greater and did not complete a baseline Child Outcomes Summary rating = **1**

Baseline Results	
Child Outcomes Summary Rating Definition	Number of children meeting the progress category definition based upon information gathered about the child's everyday functioning across a variety of settings and from multiple sources.
Rating 1: Child does not yet show functioning expected of a child his or her age in any situation. The child's functioning does not yet include immediate foundational skills upon which to build age-appropriate functioning. Child's functioning reflects skills that developmentally come before immediate foundational skills. The child's functioning might be described as like that of a much younger child.	2
Rating 2: Child occasionally uses immediate foundational skills across settings and situations. More functioning reflects skills that are not immediate foundational than are immediate foundational.	2
Rating 3: Child does not yet show functioning expected of a child of his or her age in any	5

<p>situation. Child uses immediate foundational skills, most or all of the time, across settings and situations. Immediate foundational skills are the skills upon which to build age-appropriate functioning. Functioning might be described as like that of a younger child.</p>	
<p>Rating 4: Child shows occasional age-appropriate functioning across settings and situations. More functioning is not age-appropriate than age appropriate.</p>	5
<p>Rating 5: Child shows functioning for his or her age some of the time and/or in some settings and situations. Child’s functioning is a mix of age-appropriate and not age-appropriate behaviors and skills. Child’s functioning might be described as like that of a slightly younger child</p>	1
<p>Rating 6: Child’s functioning generally is considered appropriate for his or her age but there are some significant concerns about the child’s functioning in this outcome area. These concerns are substantial enough to suggest monitoring or possible additional support. Although age-appropriate, the child’s functioning may border on not keeping pace with age expectations.</p>	0
<p>Rating 7: Child shows functioning expected for his or her age in all or almost all everyday situations that are part of the child’s life. Functioning is considered appropriate for his or her age. No one has any concerns about the child’s functioning in this outcome area.</p>	2



Supplemental Evaluation Data

Number of times each instrument was administered:

Supplemental Evaluation Instrument	Total
Visual Communication Sign Language Checklist	1
American Sign Language Communicative Development Inventory	0
Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening Language & Speech	0
REEL-4 Receptive -Expressive Emergent Language	4
Rosetti Infant-Toddler Language Scale	0
Preschool Language Scales (PLS-5)	2
MacArthur Bates Communicative Development Inventory 8+ Months	0

Summary

From Federal Fiscal Year 2022 to Federal Fiscal Year 2023, children who were deaf or hard of hearing participating in Part C Early Intervention Services with an Individualized Family Service Plan decreased from 23 to 18. The number of children who are deaf or hard of hearing participating in Part C Early Intervention Services with an Individualized Family Service Plan and a baseline Child Outcome #2 Summary Rating remained static at

17 for FFY 2023. Overall, the number of children who are deaf or hard of hearing that are receiving Part C services has decreased.

During the reporting period, six children were administered at least one of the approved supplemental evaluation instruments. The subsequent report will contain report information from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.