

Colorado Child Identification System for Young Children Birth to Five Years

Revised August 2008

Early Childhood Initiatives Colorado Department of Education 201 East Colfax Avenue Denver, Colorado 80203 (303) 866-6943



Colorado's Core Values

An effective child identification system

- focuses on positive relationships as the foundation for the process
- is responsive to family concerns, priorities and resources
- elicits and honors family participation and choices
- is child centered
- honors diversity
- utilizes a collaborative approach
- · incorporates continuous quality improvement
- is a continuous and integrated process, not a single event

Vision

Colorado's children and families have access to the earliest possible identification and intervention services for developmental disabilities through a high quality and easily accessible system of early screening, assessment and referral.

Mission

- To ensure that young children with developmental disabilities are identified and served as early as possible and to facilitate smooth and effective transitions between programs serving children birth to three and three to five years of age.
- To obtain valid and useful information about the child and family that will inform decisions about program eligibility and service planning, as well as day-to-day interactions between primary caregivers and the child.
- To provide information on child development as well as on local community resources that may be available to the family.

A. <u>INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION</u> refers to the process of establishing a community-directed, interagency effort to locate, evaluate, and identify children birth through five years, who may be in need of community services and supports.

Effectiveness Indicator	S= strength E=emerging N=need	Resources Needed, Timelines. Person(s) Responsible	V
1. A community interagency coordinating council is established to develop a system for child identification and to oversee continuous quality improvement of the process.			
2. The interagency council, where appropriate, consolidates with other early childhood councils or boards in order to avoid membership duplication and to promote coordinated efforts in the community.			
3. The Local Education Agency (LEA) provides leadership to the council.			
4. Council members include representatives from: Families Early care and education (teachers and administrators) CPKP Head Start Special Education Child Care Centers Family Child Care Organizations serving children with special needs and their families Business community Family organizations Health care which may include Public Health Mental Health Mental Health Human services/social services Community Centered Boards Advocacy organizations Programs serving families experiencing homelessness Political community Higher education Recreational programs Law enforcement or judicial system County job services agency Continue to work until each of these members			
has a voice on the council. 5. The council develops procedures that promote active engagement and long term involvement of its members. For example: • Members have administrative support from their agencies			
 Members are encouraged to commit for a specified period of time New members receive orientation and mentorship The council promotes shared 			
leadership and decision making • Meetings are held at convenient - 3 -Colorado Child Identification System		Revised August 2008	

times and places	
meetings 6. The council has developed shared values, mission and goals. 7. The roles and responsibilities of council members have been defined. 8. The council has developed a process to: • Develop agreements between agencies • Eliminate duplication of services and supports • Efficiently use resources • Promote a community approach to coordination of services and supports 9. A plan for conflict resolution and problem solving has been developed. 10. The council assures the implementation of a child identification system that is: • Comprehensive and coordinated • Responsive to children, families and the community	
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Responsive to children, families and the community	
the community	
An ongoing proactive process	
Available 12 months a year	1
Follows legal mandates	—
11. The council develops written procedures	
describing the child identification process that:	
Are available in majority languages	
represented in the community	
Assist with providing consistent	
information to families	
Are family friendly	
Include the development of	
common interagency forms	
Include a coordinated system of	
resources and services	
12. Strategies for the use of a coordinated	+
information management system:	
Have been developed	
Are in operation	ــــــ
13. The information management system:	
Is accessible to the total community	
Assists with anticipating and	
planning for immediate community	
and future community needs	
Provides quantitative and	
qualitative information	
Assists with monitoring and	
tracking needs	
14. An evaluation model has been designed to	
determine the effectiveness of the:	
Interagency group Total shild identification process	
Total child identification process A5. The avaluation model has a magnetic form.	\vdash
15. The evaluation model has a means for:	
Verifying that the child	
identification process is culturally	
non-biased	
Comparing collected data with local	<u> </u>

demographic information		
 Assuring all appropriate referrals 		
are being made		
 Identifying gaps in services and 		
supports		
 Identifying duplication of services 		
and supports		

B. <u>PUBLIC AWARENESS</u> refers to the strategies used to plan and distribute information to the public for the purpose of creating local community awareness of the child identification process.

Effectiveness Indicators	S= strength E=emerging N=need	Resources Needed, Timelines, Person(s) Responsible	
Public awareness activities are			
ongoing and sustained throughout year.			
Public awareness efforts: Provide information about developmental milestones State the purposes of the child identification process Provide information about how to access the child identification process Indicate that the			
identification process is at no cost to family			
3. Public awareness efforts are coordinated with other identification efforts in the community, such as: Public health Community Centered Boards Head Start Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Local physicians and clinics Public and private child care centers The local early childhood council			
 4. A variety of strategies are used to reach families, providers, and the community at large. The child find coordinator participates in local efforts with community partners Messages tailored to address culturally diverse populations Announcements and information are delivered through various media (TV, websites, newspapers, brochures, and other written materials) 			

5. Public awareness efforts are used		
to inform the community about:		
 All domains of child 		
development		
 The referral process 		
(including who to call)		
Screenings		
 Family involvement 		
The value of early		
identification		
 Options for services and 		
supports		
6. Public awareness information is		
readily accessible for families and the	•	
general public. This includes:		
 Having materials in places 	;	
which families frequent		
(religious institutions,		
child care, and preschool		
settings, health clinics,		
doctors' offices, etc.)		
 Choosing media 		
compatible with		
community cultures		
7. There is a coordinated marketing effort with other entities serving		
children and families in order to		
minimize duplication and present a		
clear, consistent message about how		
to access the system.		
 A common process of how 	v	
families gain access to the	•	
system		
 A common procedure 		
used once a family is		
referred		
Common brochures,		
posters, flyers, etc.		
8. A yearly written marketing plan ha been developed. The marketing plan		
includes:		
Outlines of the messages		
utilized		
 Method, frequency, and 		
locations of information		
distribution		
 Quantity of materials to be 	•	
produced and distributed		
 Coordination of an 		
interagency focus		
Strategies that are family		
friendly		
Types of information		
distributed		
Strategies that are flexible creative, and diverse.	,	
creative, and diverse		
 Strategies to reach culturally diverse 		
populations		
Labararia.		

Plans for personal contacts with community agencies by child find coordinator		
9. An evaluation procedure has been developed to determine the effectiveness of the marketing plan which will feed into the overall evaluation of the child identification process. At a minimum, the procedure evaluates: • Community use of the child identification process • Success or needed changes in marketing strategies, supported by data collected		

C. <u>Referral</u> means the process of establishing methods for referring to and from screening, evaluation, and program assessment, AND informing the community at large of these procedures.

N=need Person(s) Responsible 1. A referral process that is accessible to all members of the community in order to facilitate early and timely identification has been developed. The referral process includes: • Communication in written form in more than one language if needed to accommodate the community • Telephone messages	
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Communication in written form in more than one language if needed to accommodate the community	
form in more than one language if needed to accommodate the community	
language if needed to accommodate the community	
accommodate the community	
community	
Telenhone messages	
reflect the languages of	
the community	
Systems are in place to	
meet mandated timelines	
Year round access	
Access to a live person	
Coordination among all	
referral sources	
2. The community is aware of and has	
access to written local referral	
procedures concerning the child	
identification process. The written	
referral procedures include:	
A description of ways to	
access the system	
An outline of established	
procedures once a child is	
referred (e.g. a flow chart	
or other diagram)	
A procedure for sharing of	
information and records	
while protecting privacy	
and confidentiality	
3. The local child identification	
process actively cultivates referrals	
from a variety of sources. This	
includes:	
Traditional referral sources	
o Families	
o Public health	
o Community Centered	
Boards	
o Head Start	
o Dept. of Social Services	
o Medical professionals	
o Child care facilities	
o Preschools	
o Other	
Non-traditional referral sources	
o Homeless shelters	
o Ethnic groups	
o Clergy	

 Service organizations 			
o Other			
Systematic personal contacts			
with community members who			
have frequent contact with			
targeted population			
4. The community referral procedure:			
Allows families to enter			
anywhere along the			
referral continuum			
Reviews information and			
records provided by other			
sources to reduce			
duplication of service			
(previous screening,			
medical or educational			
diagnosis)			
5. Families are informed and			
understand their rights,			
responsibilities, and options before the process begins. This includes:			
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Providing a clearly written			
and/or verbal explanation			
to the family in their native			
language or other mode of			
communication			
An explanation of parent			
consent for evaluation			
Providing families with an			
opportunity to examine			
records			
 Providing prior written 			
notice concerning			
evaluation, placement of			
their child, and established			
timelines			
6. Upon agency receipt of referral			
information, family contact and			
scheduling for the next appropriate			
step takes place within two working			
days.			
Timeline for birth to 3 year and in 45 palary days for			
olds is 45 calendar days for			
entire process; from date of initial referral to initial IFSP			
meeting			
•			
Timeline for 3-5 year olds is 60			
calendar days; from date			
parental consent to evaluate			
was received to completion of			
the evaluation and up to 90			
days to initial IEP			
development meeting			
7. A system for rechecks and on			
going monitoring for children who are			
referred but do not qualify and who			
are at risk has been developed.			
8. A circular (feedback and follow-up			
between agencies) and systematic			
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providing feedback to referral sources		
pertaining to the status of the family		
referred.		
9. Staff or volunteers involved in the		
child identification system are familiar		
with:		
Local resource directories		
Community services and		
supports		
 Specialized services and 		
supports		
10. For children ages birth to three		
years, the community has developed		
procedures to ensure that a service		
coordinator is assigned at the time of		
referral.		
11. Coordination of services and		
supports for all families is facilitated		
by providing:		
Information and linkage to		
community resources		
Information and linkage to		
parent to parent supports		
Information about rights		
and entitlements of		
families		
 Opportunities to 		
participate fully in decision		
making and in information		
gathering		
12. Coordination of services and		
supports in the community is		
coordinated across agencies. For		
example: between the local		
community centered board, school		
districts, and public health offices.		
13. An information and data		
collection process has been		
developed to reflect the effectiveness		
of the community referral procedures		
which will feed into the overall		
evaluation of the child identification		
process.		
14. Data collection includes:		
Number of referrals		
Referral sources		
Ethnicity		
Age of child at time for		
referral		
Reason for referral		
Referral outcome		
 Documentation of follow- 		
up activities		
• Other		
	 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

D. <u>Screening</u> refers to both a "general" screening, which is a rapid process for looking at a child's growth and development for a variety of needs, and an "individualized screening", which is conducted when someone has a concern about a child's development in order to determine if further evaluation is needed.

Effectiveness Indicators	S= Strength E=Emerging N=Need	Resources Needed, Timelines Person(s) Responsible	✓
1. General screening in the	iv=iveeu	reison(s) Responsible	
community is an ongoing, proactive service for families that:			
Is year round			
Allows for periodic follow-			
up screening			
Is cost-effective			
 Involves interagency coordination 			
2. General screening in the			
community incorporates various			
implementation strategies. These may include but not limited to:			
Screening information			
from multiple agencies			
(Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and			
Treatment (EPSDT), Head			
Start, Well Child Clinics,			
etc.)			
 Parent questionnaires or parent interviews 			
Developmental, social, and			
health records			
Interagency screenings			
 Developmental screening as a part of a child's 			
regular visit to a primary			
care physician			
Preschool/child care			
screenings Other			
3. Individualized screening is			
conducted:			
To determine if a child is in need of further evaluation			
When someone has a concern			
about one or more areas of			
development			
When the results of a general screening warrant further			
evaluation			
4. Areas screened include:			
CognitionSocial/emotional			
Communication			
Self-help skills			
• Motor			
Hearing			
VisionBrief			
birth/health/developmental			
history			
5. The screening process:			
 Encourages and facilitates parent involvement 			
Parent involvement			

Is comfortable for the child and family 6. The screening process is sensitive to family needs by: Having screenings easily accessible to families (time, date, locations) Making every attempt to make the process culturally non-biased
 Encouraging parent to choose the extent of their participation Providing immediate feedback to parents regarding screening results
7. Individuals participating in the community screening process: • Respect the family's background • Ensure minimum intrusiveness for the child and family when requesting information • View the parent as an important and active member of the screening team • Are proficient in the administration of the instruments used • Are comfortable interacting with the birth-to-three and/or three-to-five year old population • Have the ability to establish rapport with the child and parent while adapting the setting as needed • Have a working knowledge of the total screening process
8. A screening process: • Ensures minimum intrusiveness for the child and family when requesting information • Assures professionals: • Respect the family's background • View the parent as an important and active member of the screening team

 Discuss how the screening 		
<u> </u>		
will take place including		
what roles the		
parent/professional team		
members will play		
 Are proficient in the 		
administration of the		
instruments used		
Are knowledgeable about		
early childhood		
development		
Are licensed/certified in		
their area(s) of expertise		
9. Screening instruments used:		
 Are objective, reliable, and 		
valid		
Are culturally non-biased		
 Include all areas of 		
development		
 Are engaging and brief 		
Are developmentally		
•		
appropriate		
 Are being used for the 		
purpose intended		
(screening instruments are		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
not used to determine		
eligibility)		
10. The screening procedure allows		
for:		
shared with the family at		
the time the screening is		
completed		
 Scheduling an evaluation 		
<u> </u>		
when appropriate		
11. At the conclusion of the		
screening process, families are		
_ ·		
provided with information to assist		
them in selecting community services		
and support options best suited to		
their child and family needs. This		
includes:		
 Supporting families as decision- 		
makers		
 Providing information to families 		
about the strengths and needs of		
their child		
 Providing information to families 		
regarding community supports for		
children who have not been		
recommended for further		
evaluation (i.e., public health		
programs, preschools, Head Start,		
etc.)		
Providing information, materials,		
and training to families regarding		
general child development and		
parenting skill		
 Providing parents with options of 		
times, dates, and location for		
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children who need further evaluation • Providing information about periodic screening procedures		
12. The screening process includes obtaining parent feedback regarding such things as timeliness, accessibility, climate, personnel, etc.		
13. An information and data collection process has been developed to reflect the effectiveness of the screening process which will feed into the overall evaluation of the child identification process.		

E. <u>Evaluation Process</u> refers to the process used, by a team of people, including the family, to: 1) determine the child's current level of functioning, strengths, and needs, 2) identify the family's resources, priorities, and concerns, 3) establish the child's eligibility for services, and 4) identify an array of community service and support options, for the child and family that will enhance the development of the child.

Effectiveness Indicators	S= strength E=emerging N=need	Resources Needed Timelines Person(s) Responsible	<u>V</u>
1. The evaluation process		Person(s) Responsible	
recommended components include:			
Gathering background			
information from multiple sources			
Developing a parent-professional			
partnership			
 Utilizing a parent-professional 			
team to determine the child's total			
functioning			
 Utilizing a parent-professional 			
team to discuss, analyze, and			
synthesize all information			
gathered during the evaluation			
process to summarize the child's			
functional skills, strengths,			
interests, and needs			
Utilizing a parent-professional			
team to develop an individualized			
plan which:			
o Includes a range of			
options to enhance the			
child's development o Encourages access to			
 Encourages access to community services 			
and supports available			
to all children			
 Promotes the family's 			
priorities, concerns,			
and goals			
2. The evaluation process is sensitive			
to family needs by:			
Having evaluations easily			
accessible for families (times,			
dates, locations)			
Making every attempt to make the			
process culturally non-biased			
Encouraging parents to choose			
the extent of their participation			
3. The evaluation team has examined			
the use of the recommended:			
Play-based arena style process			
Routines-based interviewing			
process 4. The evaluation team has chosen an			
4. The evaluation team has chosen an approach in which:			
• •			
Parents are viewed as active, participating team members (to			
participating team members (to the extent the family has chosen)			
Professionals from various			
disciplines and parents work			
collaboratively during the			
Condocidatively during the			

	evaluation process		
•	Professionals promote a holistic		
	view of the child in order to		
	assure a comprehensive		
	evaluation process		
	The composition of the team is		
	ermined by the needs of the child		
	d family and by the type of		
	cisions to be made		
	Keeping in mind the needs of the		
	ld, the team is composed of:		
•	Parent(s) as active participant(s)		
•	Professionals from those		
	disciplines that represent the child's area(s) of concern (a		
	minimum of two professionals are		
	required)		
7.	The evaluation team has		
	orporated the recommended use of		
	Itiple evaluation strategies during		
	evaluation process, which		
inc	lude:		
•	Parent observations of the child		
•	Parent and/or teacher interview		
•	Instruments that have been		
	standardized for the age of the		
	child		
•	At least one other evaluation		
	process (i.e., language sample,		
	criterion-referenced checklist, behavior sampling, etc.)		
Ω	The evaluation process:		
•	Ensures that the initial evaluation		
•	is sufficiently comprehensive to		
	appropriately identify all of the		
	child's early intervention or		
	special education and related		
	services		
•	Identifies the child's, strengths,		
	interests, and family resources,		
	priorities and concerns		
•	Is conducted in such a way that is		
	comfortable for the child and		
	family		
•	Uses information from systematic		
	observations of skills and		
	behaviors in the child's natural setting		
•	Uses parent or teacher interviews		
	The professional team members on		
	evaluation team:		
•	Ensure minimum intrusiveness		
	for the child and family when		
	requesting information		
•	Respect the family's background		
•	Have the ability to establish		
	rapport with the child and family		
•	View the family member as a		
	participating team member		
•	Have training and experience with		

the birth-to-three and/or three-to-	
five year old population	
 Are efficient and knowledgeable 	
in the use of the instruments and	
procedures chosen	
 Can establish a comfortable 	
setting to administer instruments	
selected	
Are CDE licensed in their areas of	
expertise	
Can use professional judgment to	
allow appropriate time for the	
evaluation procedure to be	
administered	
10. The procedures, methods and	
instruments used in the evaluation	
process are objective, reliable, valid,	
and culturally non-biased. The	
procedures, methods, and	
instruments chosen:	
Yield both quantitative and	
qualitative information	
Are appropriate for the age of the	
child being assessed	
Are used for the purpose intended	
Are collaboratively planned and	
conducted with parents and other	
primary caregivers	
Are individualized to the child	
Are authentic and allow teams to	
observe the child in natural and	
typical settingsAre sensitive enough to observe	
Are sensitive enough to observe all levels of functioning	
Obtain objective data from	
standardized measurements	
Separate cultural and linguistic	
differences from judgments about	
developmental delay	
Document attempts to address	
the cultural needs of the child and	
family	
11. The evaluation process is	
accomplished in a timely manner.	
Scheduling evaluations as quickly	
as possible after a referral is	
made	
Allowing time at the conclusion of	
the evaluation process:	
 For the family and 	
professionals to	
interact and exchange	
general impressions of	
the child, based on the	
evaluation	
o For families to reflect	
upon the evaluation	
process	
To plan next stepsProviding written evaluation	
Fromuling written evaluation	

results for the family, which are	
easily understood and free of	
jargon, within a reasonable period	
of time.	
12. At the conclusion of the	
evaluation process, written	
documentation is developed with ALL	
families, regardless of their child's	
eligibility determination, to:	
Outline each child's level of	
functioning, priorities, and	
concerns	
Provide appropriate information	
which assists families in selecting	
community service and support	
options best suited to the child's	
and family's needs.	
13. The evaluation process ensures:	\neg
The parent(s) is the decision	
maker	
Predetermination of the child's	
placement does not occur	
14. For all eligible children birth-to-	$\overline{}$
three or three-to-five years old, for	
whom an Individualized Family	
Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized	
Educational Program (IEP) is	
developed, a team member is	
identified who facilitates linkages	
between the family and agency	
representatives to ensure transition	
and implementation into	
recommended services and supports.	
15. The evaluation process includes	
obtaining parent feedback regarding	
such things as timeliness,	
accessibility, climate, process,	
personnel, etc.	
16. Information and data collection	
reflects the effectiveness of the	
evaluation process which will feed	
into the overall evaluation of the child	
identification process.	

F. <u>PROGRAM EVALUATION</u> refers to the process of evaluating the effectiveness of the child identification process at the local level.

	S= strength	Resources Needed	✓
Effectiveness Indicator	E=emerging	Timelines	~ 1
Lifectiveness indicator	N=need	Person(s) Responsible	
1. An evaluation model for	11 11000		
determining the effectiveness of the			
entire child identification process has			
been developed. The model includes:			
Identification of meaningful data			
to be collected			
Collection and analysis of the data			
 Development of strategies to 			
modify and adapt components as			
evaluation outcomes indicate			
2. The program evaluation model is			
designed to:			
Compare collected data with local			
demographic information			
Document interagency			
collaboration			
Determine success of the			
marketing plan			
Determine the level of community			
accessibility			
Verify that screening, evaluation			
and transitions occur in a timely			
manner			
Determine the positive impact of agreening and evaluation			
screening and evaluation procedures			
Confirm that service and support			
options are offered to families			
throughout the process			
Verify that the community			
approach of coordinating services			
and supports for families is			
working			
Determine family and community			
satisfaction with all aspects of the			
child identification process			
Determine cost effectiveness of			
the process			
Verify the option and support of			
active family participation			
throughout the process			

ADMINISTRATION CHILD IDENTIFICTION PROCESS

The following are recommended functions and qualifications of the Child Find Coordinator, as related to the "coordination" of a community, interagency child identification process for children ages birth through five who may need early intervention or special education and related services.

It is required under ECEA that each Local Education Agency (LEA) have a Child Find Coordinator who has time allotted to fulfill all functions and responsibilities outlined below. As the interagency concept develops in each community, this may evolve into a shared community or multi-district position(s). The functions of this position shall be maintained throughout the year.

RECOMMENDED FUNCTIONS OF THE CHILD FIND COORDINATOR

Program Planning and Development

- * Initiate and/or sustain an interagency child identification process
 - cultivate liaisons with community entities through ongoing contacts
- * Develop a marketing plan for public awareness
- * Develop community referral procedures
- * Coordinate with community screening processes
- * Develop an evaluation process that complies with IDEA/ECEA
- * Facilitate the design of a community approach for coordination of services and supports that links families with community resources
- * Cultivate the development of community options for services and supports that best meet the needs of the individual family and child
- * Construct a plan for ongoing staff development
- * Develop strategies for active participation of families throughout the process

Program Coordination and Implementation

- * Ensure the coordination and implementation of a community child identification process which includes:
 - interagency collaboration
 - public awareness
 - referral processes
 - screening processes
 - coordination of services and supports
 - evaluation processes
- * Ensure the formulation and implementation of a process to inform families of service and support options
- * Coordinate staff and resources needed for implementation

Program Evaluation

- * Ensure the development and implementation of a process for evaluating the effectiveness of the entire child identification process including:
 - determination of meaningful data to be collected
 - collection and analysis of data
 - identification of strategies to make changes as evaluation outcomes indicate

RECOMMENDED QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CHILD FIND COORDINATOR

- * College degree or equivalent certification/license in early childhood education or a related field
- * Has knowledge of typical child development and conditions associated with developmental delays
- * Has experience with children birth to three and/or three to five years of age
- * Has competence related to family systems and cultures
- * Demonstrates leadership skills
- * Demonstrates verbal and written communication skills

The following participants contributed to the <u>Colorado Child Identification Process Birth-Five Years Effectiveness Indicators(1992)</u> and <u>Colorado Child Identification Process Birth – Five Years Screening and Evaluation Process Guidelines(1994)</u>, which were used to develop this edition of <u>Colorado Child Identification System for Young Children Birth to Five Years (2006)</u>.

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