

ICC

Interagency Coordinating Council
for Early Childhood Intervention



SOONERSTART



2008 ANNUAL REPORT



SOONERSTART

AGENCIES INVOLVED

Oklahoma State Department of Education

**Oklahoma Department of Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services**

**Oklahoma Commission
on Children and Youth**

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

Oklahoma State Department of Health

**University of Oklahoma
Health Sciences Center**

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

SOONER

Annual Report Message from the Chair

The Interagency Coordinating Council leads the efforts of our community to see that all infants and toddlers are identified and receiving SoonerStart services. We present this Annual Report to document our ongoing commitment to early childhood intervention in Oklahoma.

Our mission is to enhance the abilities of Oklahoma infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays and strengthen the capacity of their families to support their development. Now entering our 19th year of services, the partners in the program – the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the Lee Mitchener Tolbert Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth are intensely committed to providing families the highest quality of services.

For all the successes achieved this past year, none stand more highly than serving 13,803 infants and toddlers with developmental delays and or disabilities. The funding we received provided services to thousands of infants and toddlers with an impressive range of services necessary to support their ability to improve their development.

We encourage you to read some of the stories inside this report to see a face change and a face of need that numbers fail to provide. Oklahoma's smallest citizens deserve an equal playing field and their families deserve a chance at the vision and dream they have for their lives.

In a year dedicated to early intervention services, we are always reminded that none of this would be possible without your support.



Heather Pike,
Chair



What is the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Intervention?

Oklahoma's Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Intervention was established by a gubernatorial executive order in 1987, is appointed by the governor and is required by Public Law 99-457, Part C as amended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-446. It is the responsibility of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth to administer the ICC, which in turn advises and assists the Oklahoma State Department of Education in fulfillment of its responsibilities. Through the Interagency Coordinating Council, OCCY works collaboratively with SoonerStart partners and other early childhood entities to improve services for Oklahoma's youngest children.

Who is the Lead Agency?

The Oklahoma Early Intervention Act has designated the Oklahoma State Department of Education as the lead agency for administration of the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program. OSDE is responsible for monitoring progress and providing oversight in the administration of early intervention services for infants and toddlers and their families to ensure that the intent of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is achieved in Oklahoma. Oversight by the OSDE includes the use of various processes for accountability.



What is SoonerStart?

SoonerStart is Oklahoma's Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months, who have developmental delays and their families. SoonerStart offers a collection of services families may need to promote healthy development in their child. SoonerStart can provide developmental screenings, evaluation, assessment and early intervention. When the lives of children and families are enhanced, the community will be enriched. The commitment of resources to early intervention will result in substantial, long-term savings to families, citizens, school systems and the state.

Early intervention services are designed to meet the developmental needs of each eligible child and the needs of the family related to enhancing the child's development.

SoonerStart Can Help Families:

- Learn about and enhance their child's development
- Find information and community resources
- Connect with parent-to-parent support networks

Does Early Intervention Work?

There are three primary reasons for early intervention for children with special needs – to enhance the child’s development, to provide support and assistance to the family and to maximize the child’s and family’s benefit to society. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as amended in 2004 is the law that ensures that children with developmental needs and their families are given the best chance for a productive and healthy start. Decades of research show that investing in the lives of vulnerable children earlier rather than later can generate considerable returns for children, their families and society as a whole. High-quality early intervention programs can contribute significantly

to improved outcomes in terms of school success, productivity in the workplace and responsible citizenship (National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, 2008). The period between birth and 3 years is a time of rapid cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional and motor development. SoonerStart has the opportunity to provide children with developmental delays a strong foundation for their educational, cognitive, physical, emotional and social development.

The Outcome:

- In fiscal year 2005, 402 children graduated from the program prior to their third birthday.
- In fiscal year 2006, 452 children graduated from the program prior to their third birthday.
- In fiscal year 2007, 352 children graduated from the program prior to their third birthday.

Who is Eligible?

The children eligible for early intervention services in the state of Oklahoma are infants and toddlers age birth to 36 months who are developmentally delayed.

Developmentally delayed means children of the chronological age group birth through 2 who exhibit a delay in their developmental age compared to their chronological age of 50 percent or score two standard deviations below the mean in one of the following areas or in a subdomain of one of the following

areas: cognitive, physical, communication, social or emotional or adaptive development; or exhibit a delay in their developmental age compared to their chronological age of 25 percent or score 1.5 standard deviations below the mean in two or more of the following areas or in a sub-domain of two or more of the following areas: cognitive, physical, communication, social or emotional or adaptive development; or have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in delay.



How Many Children are Referred?

New referrals are received by all 77 Oklahoma counties. Almost half of the referrals are children under 12 months of age. Data shows that Oklahoma's SoonerStart Early Intervention Program exceeded the target for serving children with developmental delays under the age of 1.

4,295 – average monthly caseload

Oklahoma Early Intervention Referrals

- During fiscal year 2008, the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program received 9,370 referrals.

Our 2007-2008 Investment Resulted In:

- 13,803 children, ages birth to 3, received screening, evaluation, assessment and services.

Ages	%
< 12 months	45.54
12-23 months	27.85
24-36 months	26.61

How Many Children are Referred? (Continued)

Race:	%
White (not Hispanic)	64.00
African American	15.00
Hispanic	11.00
American Indian	9.00
Asian	1.00

Data Source: SDE EI database 2008 extract

Reasons for referral range from concerns about speech development, prematurity, developmental delays, automatic qualifiers and motor delays.

Characteristics of children referred to SoonerStart:

Gender: 42 percent are females
58 percent are males

Language:

Ninety-four of these referrals listed English as the child's primary language. Only five percent of the referrals noted that they needed an interpreter.



Who Connects Families with the SoonerStart program?

Referral Sources:	%
Families, relatives or friends	30.00
Oklahoma State Department of Health	9.02
Oklahoma Department of Human Services	24.75
Local schools and community programs	11.01
Health care providers and hospitals	24.72

The SoonerStart Program receives referrals by telephone, fax, mail and e-mail to connect families with the supports and services they need. Each family is assigned a resource coordinator whose job is to help the family coordinate the early intervention process, to access services and resources and to work with the family to meet their unique needs.

During fiscal year 2008, 30 percent of the families referred themselves or were referred by a health care provider (24.72 percent) for services.

to access services and resources

CALL 211



What Services Are Available?

SoonerStart is designed to help families maximize their child's potential. Parents and service providers are partners in developing and implementing a program to achieve the best possible results for the child. SoonerStart services are provided by qualified personnel: child development specialists, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, registered dietitians, resource coordinators, speech and language pathologists, social workers and many others.

Depending on individual needs, SoonerStart offers one or a combination of the following services:

SoonerStart Services

Assistive technology services

Audiology – hearing

Early identification with screening, evaluation and assessment services

Family training, counseling and home visits

Medical services only for diagnostic or evaluation purposes

Service coordination for toddlers and their families

Nutrition services

Occupational therapy

Physical therapy

Special instruction

Psychological services

Speech-language pathology

Social work services

Vision services

Nursing services



How Are Services Delivered?

Natural Environments is the term used in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA 2004, to refer to settings that are typical for infants and toddlers. It is used as a contrast to more traditional treatment settings such as clinical or medical-based programs and includes families' homes, early care and education programs and other community setting where family's within their everyday activities and events. When caregivers maximize learning opportunities in the child's daily routines and activities, then the child has many opportunities for intervention every day, throughout the day and in a meaningful and responsive manner (Woods, J, 2008, providing early intervention services in natural environments).

The environment has the greatest potential to influence the child's developing brain during a child's first few years of life.

As required by the U.S. Department of Education, the Oklahoma State Department of Education provided U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, with information regarding infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities from birth through 2 who received early intervention services. This was a point in time count of infants and toddlers served, not a cumulative count.

The category "other" includes children who exited the SoonerStart program who moved out of state, died, were withdrawn by a parent or guardian and were not successfully contacted.

December 1, 2007

Natural Environment point in time child count data:

Natural Environment	Home Community	Other Setting	All Settings
2,928	86	51	3,065

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Special Education Services, Part C Child Count

U.S. Department of Education Determination Letters on State Implementation of the IDEA

In accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, each State has in place a state performance plan that evaluates the state's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of Part C and describes how the state will improve such implementation.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education received their determination letter identifying the SoonerStart Early Intervention program as meets the requirements and purposes of the IDEA. The Oklahoma State Department of Education Special Education Services provided valid and reliable data reflecting correction or high levels of compliance for timeliness of services, transition and monitoring. The ICC commends the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program for their continuous quality enhancement efforts. Oklahoma can be proud of the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program.

The IDEA details four categories for determination by the United State Secretary:

- Meets the requirements and purposes of the IDEA.
- Needs assistance in implementing the requirements of the IDEA.
- Needs intervention in implementing the requirements of the IDEA.
- Needs substantial intervention in implementing the requirements of the IDEA.



State Monitoring

The SoonerStart Early Intervention Program uses a quality assurance process to monitor federal and state compliance. The Oklahoma State Department of Education must report annually to the public on the performance of each SoonerStart early intervention site located in the state on the 14 federal indicators, such as timely services, child find, child and family outcomes and transition.

SoonerStart Early Intervention Program Summary of Site Determinations for Federal Fiscal Year 2006-2007

- In 2006-2007, 21 sites results indicated Meets Requirements. Five SoonerStart sites level of determination was Needs Assistance, up from two sites in 2005-2006.
- The two sites in 2005-2006 with Needs Assistance improved to Meets Requirements for 2006-2007.
- Overall state results was Meet Requirements. The SoonerStart program is required to have procedures to resolve disputes and to investigate complaints. The dispute resolution data are counts of the written, signed complaints; mediation requests; and hearing requests for children age birth to 3.

There were two formal complaints received by the Oklahoma State Department of Education in state fiscal year 2008. Both complaints were investigated. One complaint required action and findings of noncompliance with federal law. The second complaint was cancelled by the family.

In response to the 2007 complaints the Oklahoma State Department of Education convened a SoonerStart Complaint Panel to address challenges and barriers pertaining to requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. During state fiscal 2008 a contract was awarded to Emerald Consulting to provide the Oklahoma State Department of Education a comprehensive program review. The final report will be completed by December 2008.

Part C Allocations to Oklahoma

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provides funding to states to plan, monitor and provide services for children from birth to three years of age with developmental delays and disabilities. Most of the resources made available to Oklahoma fund direct services.

Interesting Facts and Data About SoonerStart

Type of Assistive Technology	Number of Demonstrations
Speech communication	80
Vision	43
Hearing	0
Computers and related	3
Daily Living	49
Learning, cognition and developmental	10
Environmental adaptations	86
Mobility, seating and positioning	262
Vehicle modifications and transportation	0
Recreation, sports and leisure	0
Other	0
Total	533

SoonerStart and Oklahoma ABLE Tech

The SoonerStart program has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Oklahoma ABLE Tech to ensure assistive technology in early intervention programs in Oklahoma. ABLE Tech provided 26 assistive technology demonstration kits for 26 SoonerStart sites. Approximately 533 assistive technology devices were loaned to families giving the child an opportunity to determine if the devices met their needs.

Oklahoma ABLE Tech has developed a new brochure for distribution to parents, families and professionals. This informational brochure provides an overview of assistive technology and how assistive technology can help young children with special needs.

Source: 2008 Oklahoma ABLE Tech report

Success Story

SoonerStart

“SoonerStart was such a blessing to both our daughter and to us as parents. At 15 months of age, Erica was making no attempts to walk. I felt very guilty as a parent that she was behind, that somehow it was my fault. I vividly remember the occupational therapist with SoonerStart showing me that our daughter’s feet rotated outward when she was standing, unlike other children her age, making it more difficult for her to learn to walk. Finally, I felt it was not somehow my failure that caused her to be delayed in walking. I felt hopeful instead of helpless about the situation. SoonerStart provided us reassurance with both their assessment of her situation, but also a plan so that she would be successful in walking. In less than two months time, with occupational therapy, she was walking independently. I don’t really know what we would have done without SoonerStart’s help. We will always be grateful for their support. I feel confident she would not have walked as soon as she did without the support of SoonerStart services.”

– Debra, Oklahoma City parent

Parent Survey

- In an effort to continue to evaluate the SoonerStart program and determine parent satisfaction, the Oklahoma State Department of Education Special Education Services provided parents with a copy of a parent survey developed by the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring.
- In 2007, 95.39 percent of families reported that SoonerStart helped the family know their rights.
- In 2007, 95.31 percent families reported that SoonerStart helped the family communicate their children’s needs.

In 2007, 95.86 percent families reported that SoonerStart helped the family help their children develop and learn.



What's New with SoonerStart?

Procedural Safeguard Document

The Oklahoma State Department of Education Special Education Services revised the SoonerStart Procedural Safeguards. The Oklahoma State Department of Education conducted several mandatory trainings on the IDEA Procedural Safeguards for all SoonerStart staff and contractors.

Opportunities for Families to Partner with Professionals

The Interagency Coordinating Council identifies how important it is to have family input and to be well represented by the population in the state of Oklahoma. This year the Interagency Coordinating Council voted on adding a Family Supportive Committee to help with the guidance of Part C federal rules and regulations.

Statewide Training and Regional Support Team Training

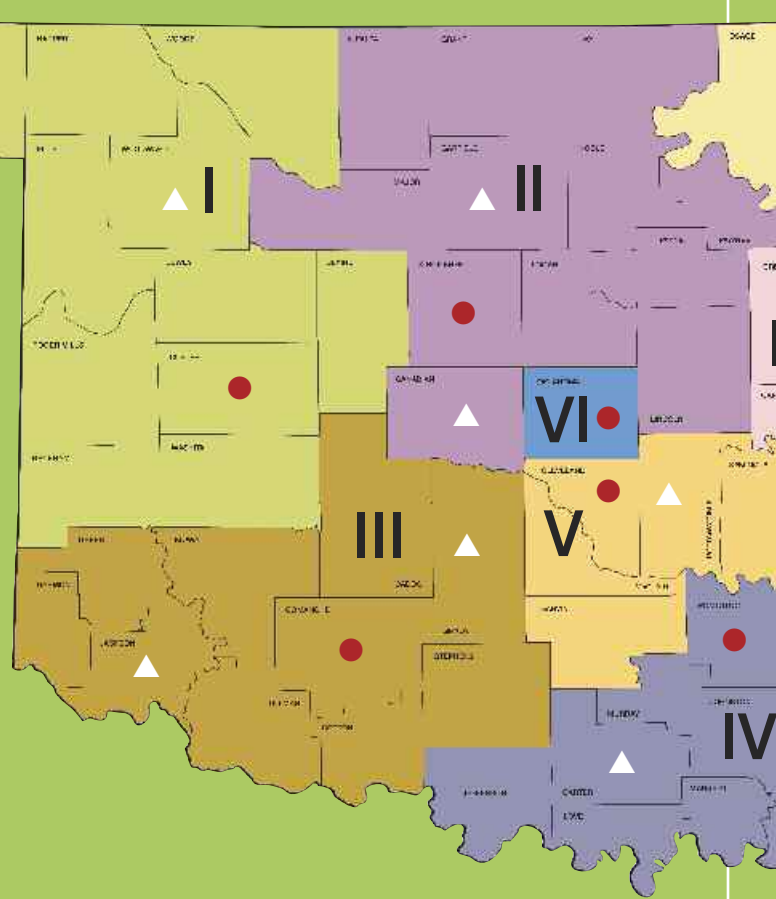
In the last year, STARS has implemented a Web-based orientation for all SoonerStart staff and contractors. We have also introduced a CORE training track for all SoonerStart staff members. Out-of-state speakers included Dr. Deborah Chen on working with children with multiple disabilities, Mary Beth Bruder on teaming and IFSP's, Dr. Gail Richard on common genetic syndromes and Dr. Winnie Dunn on sensory processing.



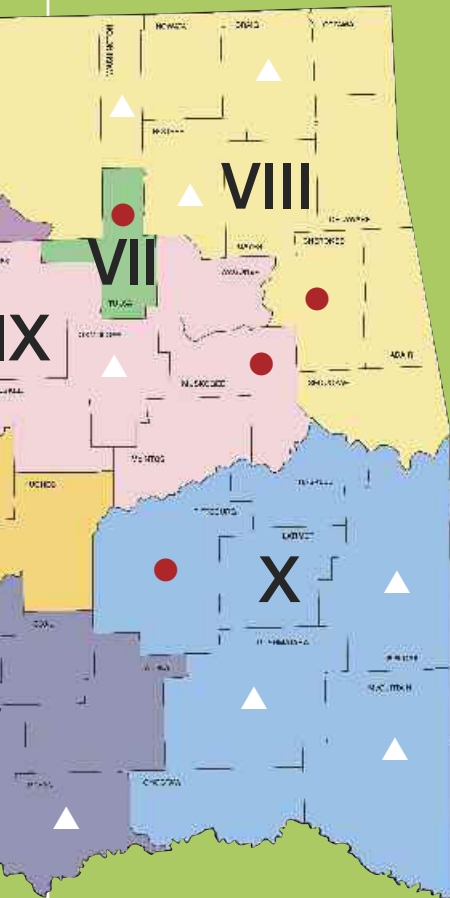
DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2008, THE SOONERSTART PROGRAM PROVIDED SCREENING, EVALUATION AND SERVICES TO 13,802 INFANTS AND TODDLERS.

SoonerStart Referrals by Region and Calendar Year

Regional Office Name	4-year Total	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ada	1,553	253	376	429	495
Clinton	1,159	243	275	315	326
Kingfisher	3,567	709	883	969	1006
Lawton	2,746	566	785	709	686
McAlester	1,522	267	433	430	392
Muskogee	2,212	499	592	569	552
Norman	3,617	686	903	1,042	986
Oklahoma County	7,728	1,770	1,885	2,018	2,055
Tahlequah	3,277	666	882	838	891
Tulsa	6,095	1,171	1,552	1,711	1,661
Statewide	33,476	6,830	8,566	9,030	9,050



Regional Offices Satellite Offices



● **Regional Offices**

▲ **Satellite Offices**

Region I

Texas, Beaver, Cimarron, Custer, Beckham, Blaine, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Roger Mills, Washita, Woods and Woodward Counties

Region II

Canadian, Garfield, Major, Alfalfa, Grant, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Payne, Pawnee, Noble and Kay Counties

Region III

Comanche, Caddo, Cotton, Jackson, Greer, Harmon, Kiowa, Tillman, Grady and Stephens Counties

Region IV

Carter, Jefferson, Love, Pontotoc, Murray, Johnston, Bryan, Marshall, Coal and Atoka Counties

Region V

Cleveland, Garvin, McClain, Pottawatomie, Seminole and Hughes Counties

Region VI

Oklahoma County

Region VII

Tulsa County

Region VIII

Craig, Ottawa, Cherokee, Adair, Delaware, Mayes, Sequoyah, Washington, Osage, Nowata and Rogers Counties

Region IX

Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, McIntosh, Muskogee and Wagoner Counties

Region X

Pittsburg, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pushmataha and Choctaw Counties



SoonerStart Contacts

Region I

Texas, Beaver, Cimarron, Custer, Beckham,
Blaine, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Roger Mills,
Washita, Woods and Woodward Counties

Regional Coordinator:

Jeanette Atha

Custer County Health Department
3030 Custer Avenue
Clinton, OK 73601
Office (580) 323-2100, Fax (580) 323-2282

Region II

Canadian, Garfield, Major, Alfalfa, Grant,
Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Payne, Pawnee,
Noble and Kay Counties

Regional Coordinator:

Lori Jackson

Kingfisher County Health Department
124 East Sheridan, Room 101
Kingfisher, OK 73750
(405) 375-3008, Fax (405) 375-5978

Region III

Comanche, Caddo, Cotton, Jackson, Greer, Harmon,
Kiowa, Tillman, Grady and Stephens Counties

Regional Coordinator:

Robbyn Morris

Grady County Health Department
205 Chickasha Ave., Suite 4
Chickasha, OK 73018
(405) 224-1050, Fax (405) 222-3324

Region IV

Carter, Jefferson, Love,
Pontotoc, Murray, Johnston, Bryan,
Marshall, Coal and Atoka Counties

Regional Coordinator:

LouAnne Mullens

Pontotoc County Health Department
1630 East Beverly
Ada, OK 74820-2645
(580) 332-2011, Fax (580) 332-9537

Region V

Cleveland, Garvin, McClain, Pottawatomie,
Seminole and Hughes Counties

Regional Coordinator:

Stephanie Kite

Cleveland County Health Department
250 12th Ave. N.E.
Norman, OK 73071-2800
(405) 321-4048, Fax (405) 364-6761

Region VI

Oklahoma County

Regional Coordinator:

Jenni Replogle

Oklahoma County SoonerStart
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 250
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 271-9477, Fax (405) 271-9497

Region VII

Tulsa County

Regional Coordinator:

Ellen Schmeder

Tulsa County SoonerStart

209 S. Lakewood

Tulsa, OK 74112-1713

(918) 835-8691, Fax (918) 836-4505

Region VIII

Craig, Ottawa, Cherokee, Adair, Delaware,
Mayes, Sequoyah, Washington, Osage,
Nowata and Rogers Counties

Regional Coordinator:

Michele Presley

Cherokee County Health Department

906 S. College

Tahlequah, OK 74464

(918) 458-6577, Fax (918) 458-6592

Region IX

Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, McIntosh,
Muskogee and Wagoner Counties

Regional Coordinator:

Melissa Green

Muskogee County Health Department

530 S. 34th St.

Muskogee, OK 74401

(918) 683-0321, Fax (918) 683-8053

Region X

Pittsburg, Haskell, Latimer,
LeFlore, McCurtain, Pushmataha
and Choctaw Counties

Regional Coordinator:

Shaun Kondos

Pittsburg County

Health Department

620 S 3rd St.

McAlester, OK 74501

(918) 423-1267, Fax (918) 423-2948



ICC Membership

The ICC is composed of a minimum of 15 governor-appointed members as specified in federal law including:

- parents of young children with disabilities;
- public and private providers of early intervention services; and
- representatives from the state legislature, higher education, and
- agencies that provide or pay for early intervention services.

Agency Representatives

Martha Buchanan

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Raymond Haddock

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Terrie Fritz

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

Misty Kimbrough

Oklahoma State Department of Education

Edd Rhoades

Oklahoma State Department of Health

Frank Stone

Oklahoma Insurance Department

Others Appointed by Governor

Lynn Rambo-Jones.....Edmond

Candye Chavez.....Oklahoma City

Parent Representatives

Lathonya Shivers.....Oklahoma City

Heather Pike, ICC ChairEdmond

Tara LozanoOklahoma City

Amy Owens.....McAlester

Tammy RogersOklahoma City

Legislative Representatives

Senator Sean Burrage.....Claremore

Representative Jeannie McDanielTulsa

Provider Representatives

Paula Brown, Head Start AgencyPawnee

Shari Kinney, County AdministratorNorman

Jim Lewis, M.D.Tahlequah

Jan MatthewOklahoma City

Personnel Preparation Representatives

Marti Ferretti, MPH, PT

OUHSC - Division of Rehabilitation Sciences

Kermit McMurry, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Children Leave the SoonerStart Program Every Day

“Transition from SoonerStart to the public school system was a positive experience.”
— Melissa

Many children graduate because they no longer need the SoonerStart program. Children also transition into school district special education programs or other community-based programs when they reach the age of 3. When a child is not eligible for SoonerStart services information about community resources is provided to the family.

Infants and Toddlers Exiting the Program

Graduated prior to age 3	352
Eligible for school services	879
Exit with referral to other programs	162
Exit with no referrals	58
Other	1,331
Exiting Total	2,782

The category “other” includes children who exited the SoonerStart program who moved out of state, died, were withdrawn by a parent or guardian and were not successfully contacted.

(Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education, Part C Child Count)



SKY'S THE LIMIT





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