



## Governor's Report January 15, 2016

Vision: Every infant and toddler with or at risk for a developmental delay and their families will be supported and included in their communities so that the children will be healthy and successful.

Hello! Please meet our sweet miracle, James! Our story begins with a routine ultrasound in which the doctor noticed something irregular with James's brain. It was later confirmed with a Fetal MRI that James had Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum. They also discovered an ASD (hole in heart) and abnormal kidneys. We were told he probably wasn't going to make it outside of the womb. However, we held on to hope and our faith. We believe in power of prayer so we asked everyone we knew to pray for him to make it through and, sure enough, he did! Right after James was born, we flew to Children's Hospital in Washington D.C. for surgery for an imperforate anus. Nine days later we were miraculously able to take home our precious miracle.

A few months after James was born we moved back to Iowa to be closer to family. By then, James was also diagnosed with a chromosomal abnormality, hearing loss (wears hearing aids), heart defects, abnormally small kidneys, tethered spinal cord, adrenal insufficiency, sensory processing issues, global developmental delays, and much more! It was so nice having the help and support of family; however, we felt kind of lost on what was best to do for James. I was given a phone number for Early ACCESS and assured it would be great services for James and our family. That's when Early ACCESS was invited into our lives! We met with the CHSC (Child Health Specialty Clinics) Early ACCESS Service Coordinator and instantly knew she was the right match for James and our family.



Currently, we work with several specialists through Early ACCESS. The Occupational Therapist has helped with hand strength, coordination, and certain sensory issues. We are now working on him feeding himself. The Physical Therapist has helped James with rolling, transitions, sitting, balance, and standing in the stander she secured for us. The Speech Therapist helped James learn to sign "more" and gave us switches to help James make choices and communicate what he wants. We also work with an Audiologist and teachers who have many wonderful ideas and suggestions to better help James. Our CHSC Early ACCESS Service Coordinator keeps us all on the same page with goals and meetings and helps us get information and resources to help our family. Our Early ACCESS team helps us implement many strategies into our daily routines and outings to help James get stronger and learn new things weekly! They've even helped our 5 year old daughter figure out ways she can help James work to get stronger and communicate.

We truly don't know where we'd be without our Early ACCESS team as they've helped make a world of difference in James and our family. We have overcome so many obstacles thanks to their help and problem solving. Thanks to Early ACCESS, I have become more confident in knowing what to do for James and making sure my voice is heard by all of his specialists. The services and supports are priceless and we will be forever grateful!

Heather

## Early Intervention Makes a Difference

Intervention during the critical first three years of a child's life can:

↑ Increase the child's:

- Rate of growth
- Social and emotional development
- Acquisition of knowledge and skills
- Use of appropriate behaviors to meet his or her needs

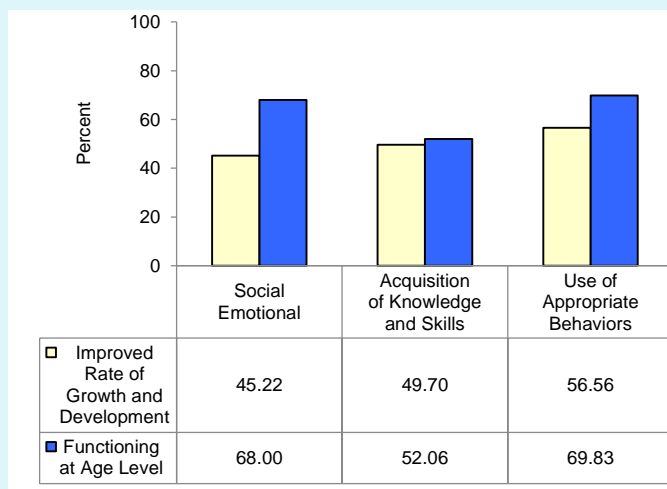
↓ Decrease the likelihood of special education

↓ Reduce the need for expensive and more intense services in the future

A child's brain develops dramatically in the first 3 years of life.



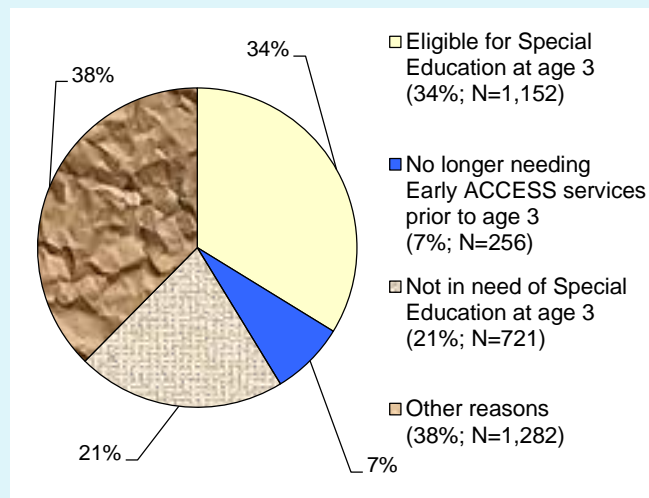
### Early Intervention Services Improve Infant/Toddler Growth and Development



By the time children exit Early ACCESS Services (at age three or earlier):

- 45.2%-56.6% of the children substantially improved their growth rate
- 52.06%-69.8% of the children were functioning within age expectations for each outcome area

### Exit Data for Children Leaving Early ACCESS



Of the children who exited Early ACCESS:

- 28% of children no longer required early intervention services (7%) or special education services (21%)

To learn more about Early ACCESS contact: Iowa Family Support Network at 1-888-IAKIDS1 or [www.IAFamilySupportNetwork.org](http://www.IAFamilySupportNetwork.org)

**Early ACCESS** is Iowa's IDEA Part C (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) early intervention system for families of children birth to 3 years of age who have developmental delays or conditions known to impact development. The purpose of Iowa's Early ACCESS system is to enhance not only the development of infants and toddlers with or at-risk for developmental delays, but also the capacity of families to meet their child's needs.

## Collaboration

Early ACCESS is a coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services offered in partnership with families and other community providers.

Signatory Agencies:

- Iowa Department of Education (Lead Agency) and Regional Grantees: Area Education Agencies (AEAs)
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Child Health Specialty Clinics
- Iowa Department of Human Services



## Services

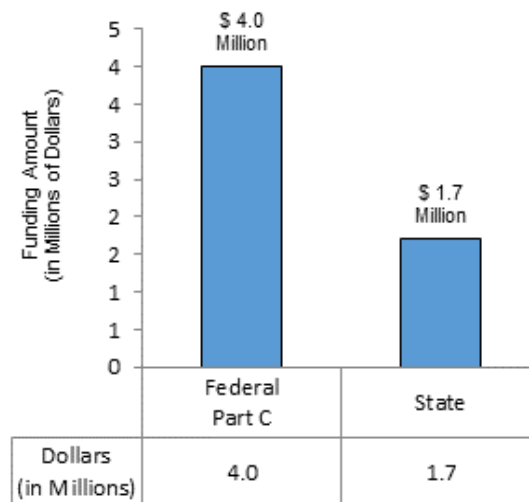
Early ACCESS services begin with a look at the child's strengths, the areas for extra help, and a chance to get to know each child's family. Early ACCESS supports skills such as talking, moving, seeing, listening, thinking, eating and playing. A plan is written to help guide the way families and Early ACCESS staff will work together to support the child. Families work with professionals, such as Speech-Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists in a natural environment where the family feels most comfortable.

## A Look at the Numbers

**6,801** Children birth to 3 years receiving services 7-1-13 through 6-30-14

**3,439** Children birth to 3 years receiving services on October 2014 count day

Early ACCESS Funding Sources



*\* Early ACCESS also receives a significant amount of Part B Federal Funds.*

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