# Family Coaching that Improves Outcomes

*Connecting the Early Intervention Pyramid Practices Fidelity Instrument (EIPPFI) to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C APR Indicators 3 & 4*

The EIPPFI measures the implementation of evidence-based family coaching practices that build caregivers' confidence and competence in supporting their child's development. Aligned with the DEC Recommended Practices and the Principles of Early Intervention, it is more than a fidelity tool — it is a mechanism for improving the very outcomes that state and local Children's Integrated Services–Early Intervention (CIS-EI) are held accountable for under IDEA Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) Indicators 3 and 4.

## The Theory of Action

**High-Fidelity Family Coaching** → **Caregiver Confidence & Skill** → **Everyday Learning Opportunities** → **Improved Outcomes (Indicators 3 & 4)**

**Indicator 3 — Child Outcomes** | **Indicator 4 — Family Outcomes**

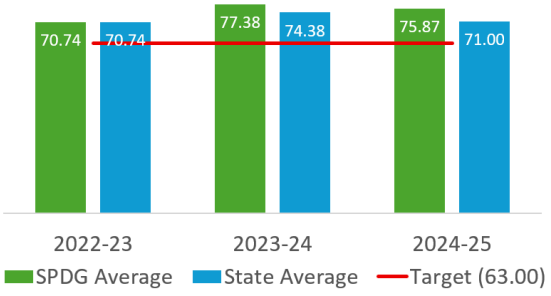
## EIPPFI-to-APR Crosswalk

| EIPPFI Family Coaching Practice | What Families Experience | IDEA Part C APR Outcome Supported |
|---|---|---|
| Build collaborative partnerships | Families feel heard, respected, and involved in decision-making. | **Ind. 4A/4B — Know their rights; communicate their child's needs** |
| Use family-centered coaching | Caregivers practice strategies in everyday routines and gain confidence using them independently. | **Ind. 4C — Help their child develop and learn** |
| Support responsive caregiver-child interactions | Stronger relationships increase engagement, communication, and emotional security. | **Ind. 3A/3B — Social-emotional skills; knowledge & skills** |
| Teach social-emotional strategies | Families support emotional regulation, communication, and peer relationships. | **Ind. 3A — Positive social-emotional skills** |
| Address challenging behavior (prevention & coaching) | Families learn proactive strategies focused on social and emotional growth that reduce challenging behavior and boost family participation. | **Ind. 3A/3C — Social-emotional skills; appropriate behavior** |
| Use ongoing assessment & reflection | Coaching stays individualized, responsive, and grounded in family priorities and child progress. | **Continuous improvement across Indicators 3 & 4** |

## Why Fidelity Matters

The EIPPFI is not simply a measure of practitioner performance — it is a roadmap for strengthening the family coaching practices that build family capacity and improve child outcomes. When practitioners consistently implement these evidence-based practices, families become confident partners who support learning and social-emotional development throughout everyday routines, directly advancing IDEA Part C Indicators 3 and 4.

## *Vermont's Improved Positive Social and/or Emotional Skills*




*APR Indicator 3A — implementation sites, statewide average, and state target*

The graph shows that CIS EI Regional Early MTSS sites and state averages have stayed above the 63% target throughout this three-year period, and these CIS regions have consistently outperformed the statewide average in the two most recent years, after starting even in 2022–23. This suggests that sites receiving the more intensive EI Early MTSS supports are achieving stronger social-emotional outcomes for children than the state as a whole — consistent with the argument that high-quality family coaching supports improved outcomes under APR Indicator 3A.

*Sources: Pyramid Model Innovations · OSEP IDEA Part C APR Indicators 3 & 4*

*Please note: This document was conceptualized based on VT APR data, established Part C Early Intervention practices, and previous experiences. AI tools were used to format and align content.*