About DaSy

What does "DaSy" stand for?

DaSy is short for data systems—specifically, the Center for IDEA Early Childhood **Da**ta **Sy**stems. IDEA is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. There are two early childhood programs in IDEA: early intervention (Part C of IDEA), which is for children ages birth through 2 with delays and disabilities and their families, and preschool special education (Section 619 of Part B of IDEA), which is for children ages 3 through 5 with delays and disabilities. DaSy refers to the data systems for both these programs.

What is the main purpose of DaSy?

The main purpose of DaSy is to provide state Part C and Part B preschool programs with technical assistance in developing and enhancing integrated early childhood data systems to improve state capacity to collect, analyze, and report high-quality IDEA data.

Why is it important for states to develop and enhance integrated early childhood data systems?

Data systems are tools to improve programs and, ultimately, outcomes for children and families. Young children with disabilities are served in early intervention and preschool special education programs, but they also may be served in other early childhood programs in their communities such as Early Head Start, Head Start, child care, and state prekindergarten. Having integrated early childhood data systems enables states to link data across these programs. These linkages provide powerful information about who programs are serving, what services they are receiving, and who is providing those services. Policymakers, state agency staff, local program staff, and others need high-quality integrated early childhood data systems to improve early intervention and preschool special education services and supports to better serve children and families and to answer important program and policy questions.

Who funds DaSy?

The DaSy Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

How long is DaSy being funded?

DaSy is being funded for five years, from December 1, 2012, through November 30, 2017.

Who are the DaSy staff members?

The DaSy staff is composed of people from several organizations with expertise in early childhood and data system topics. If you are looking for someone in particular, please check the Our People page.

DaSy staff members are from the following organizations:

* SRI International
* Frank Porter Graham (FPG) Child Development Institute
* Applied Engineering Management (AEM)
* Westat
* Center for Technology in Education (CTE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU)
* Cadre of national experts

How can I contact DaSy Center staff?

For general questions, please send email to: dasycenter@sri.com or call 650-859-3881.

Mailing address:
The DaSy Center
333 Ravenswood Avenue, BS140
SRI International
Menlo Park, CA 94025

For individual DaSy staff members, please use the Our People page.

News, Events, & Resources

How can I keep informed about DaSy's work?

You may sign up to receive DaSy updates on the home page of the DaSy website.

You can also obtain updates via Twitter by following @DaSyCenter and via Facebook by friending DaSy Center.

DaSy staff members also make presentations at national meetings and conferences, and these are announced on the center website.

Where can I find information about upcoming events and activities?

The DaSy website is the best place to look for news and upcoming events and activities.

Where should I look for DaSy resources, such as papers and briefs?

The DaSy website is the best place to find resources developed by DaSy as well as resources developed by other projects and organizations.

* DaSy Resources
* Other Resources

Where can I find information and materials from past DaSy presentations?

Archived materials and presentations are on the DaSy website:

* Past Events
* DaSy Resources

What does DaSy offer for families?

The DaSy Center provides information for families about early intervention and preschool special education data, why these data are important, and how they can be used to improve programs and outcomes for children and their families.

Data privacy is central to all the work of DaSy. The DaSy Center can direct families to information about the federal laws that protect the privacy of children and families and that govern who can access and use data for specific purposes.

Families are essential stakeholders when states make policy decisions about using data. The DaSy Center wants to help families partner with program staff to set directions based on data. To explore DaSy resources or make suggestions, please visit our For Families page.

How can I find out what states are doing in the area of early childhood data systems?

The DaSy website has a page for materials states have developed to promote high-quality early childhood data systems. Share your state materials with us so that other states can benefit from your work and experience. To explore state-developed resources, visit State Materials.

Technical Assistance (TA)

What kinds of TA does DaSy provide?

The DaSy Center provides a continuum of TA for Part C and Part B preschool state staff and other state staff. TA activities include convening national meetings, conducting topical meetings or think tanks, forming and supporting communities of practice, holding national webinars, and developing online, print, and video training materials. Although our TA is targeted for Part C and 619 state agencies, many of the activities such as conferences and webinars are open to anyone who is interested. In addition to general TA for all states and territories, DaSy will provide individualized TA as requested.

In years 2 through 5, the DaSy Center will provide 10 states with intensive TA. DaSy staff and stakeholders in these states will develop and implement a TA work plan based on priorities identified by the Part C and Part B preschool programs.

Who can request state DaSy Center TA?

State personnel working with Part C and Part B 619 programs are encouraged to request TA. Other individuals and TA centers also can contact DaSy on behalf of their state clients with questions related to our scope of work. Call 650-859-3881 or email dasycenter@sri.com and provide a short description of TA needs.

If my state requests TA, will DaSy require that we make specific changes to our state data system?

No. The DaSy Center provides TA to states based on state-identified needs and questions. Our goal is to help each state make good decisions about its data systems, but decisions always are made by the state.

Does DaSy have recommendations about what state data systems should look like?

In the first year of our project, DaSy is working closely with seven states to develop a framework that identifies the key components and quality indicators of an effective data system for Part C and 619 and the integration of those data with other state systems. The seven states are Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. The framework will:

* ✳ Provide a structure for DaSy's TA
* ✳ Be a tool states can use as a self-assessment of their data systems including identifying areas for improvement
* ✳ Identify strategies for coordinating data systems to connect data about children across programs and over time.

For information about the framework development process, visit the Framework webpage.

What other opportunities does DaSy offer to states?

States can participate in topical webinars, learning communities, conferences, and other events announced on the DaSy website and through DaSy email updates and social media.

Does DaSy work with other organizations, TA centers, and projects?

DaSy is collaborating closely with other organizations, projects, and TA centers, all of which have knowledge and experience in a range of early childhood issues, data topics, or both. DaSy works closely with other OSEP-funded and other TA projects to coordinate, leverage, and maximize TA resources to states. These organizations include the following:

* Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center
* Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC)
* State Support Team (SST) for the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grants
* Common Education Data Standards (CEDS)
* IDEA Data Center (IDC)
* Early Learning Challenge TA (ELC TA)
* Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)
* Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO)
* Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC)