



ANNEX A: Factsheet on ECHO

1 About the ECHO framework

<p>What is ECHO</p>	<p>Early Childhood Holistic Outcomes (ECHO) is a holistic early childhood intervention (ECI) service and outcomes framework that focuses on achieving improvements in the children’s daily functions and activities, with their families as key partners in the intervention.</p> <p>ECHO will benefit the key early intervention programme for infants and children (EIPIC) stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved outcomes through better family support, functional approach to early intervention and integrated services • Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater understanding of their children and themselves - Better outcomes through increased engagement and knowledge, empowerment and partnership with the intervention team • Early Childhood Professionals and EIPIC VWOs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capabilities are enhanced through trans-disciplinary and functional approach - Evaluation activities are integrated with daily service delivery - ECHO’s standardised measurement system gives common data for national and/or international benchmarking purposes <p>The ECHO framework is based on the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) framework adopted by the United States (U.S.) Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and Singapore is the first country in the world to adapt it outside the U.S.</p>
<p>Who’s involved</p>	<p>Commissioned by the Lien Foundation</p> <p>Led by KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital (KKH) – ECHO technical assistance team comprises senior early childhood intervention experts from the Department of Child Development at KKH and the Child Development Unit at National University Hospital</p> <p>Implemented in Thye Hua Kwan (THK) EIPIC Centres – Woodlands, Choa Chu Kang, Tampines, and Ang Mo Kio, where more than 500 children and their families have benefitted from ECHO</p>

	<p>Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - U.S.-based national consultants who work with the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)¹ in U.S. to provide training and transferring of knowledge and expertise to the ECHO technical assistance team <p>Dr Robin McWilliam, International Purveyor, Routines-Based Model</p>
<p>Outreach of ECHO</p>	<p>Who: Children enrolled under THK EIPIC in Singapore</p> <p>When: Over three years, from February 2014 until January 2017</p> <p>Cost: S\$2.2 million</p>
<p>What is the U.S Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) framework –</p>	<p>Since 2005, the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) began requiring State Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education programmes to measure and report child outcomes and family outcomes. States are required to report annual data on three functional outcomes for children, from birth through five years of age, based on progress made between entry and exit from special education services.</p> <p>The requirement was driven by the need for U.S. national data on the effectiveness of early childhood special education programmes and to support ongoing programme improvement efforts. The U.S. outcomes requirements emphasise the assessment of functional child outcomes as well as the accomplishment of family outcomes.</p> <p>Singapore’s Enabling Masterplan aims to promote family involvement in early intervention and establish a framework for service standards and monitoring. Singapore’s aims parallel the U.S. experience in 2005, hence the U.S. child outcomes measurement systems have been adapted and localised, resulting in the development of the ECHO framework.</p> <p>For more information, please refer to: http://ectacenter.org/eco/</p>
<p>About EIPIC</p>	<p>The EIPIC programme was introduced in 2003 to provide therapy and educational support services for infants and young children with special needs. For more information on the programme, please refer to: http://tinyurl.com/EIPICprogramme</p> <p>For more information on the EIPIC services provided in Singapore, please refer to: http://tinyurl.com/EIPICservicematrix</p>

¹ <http://ectacenter.org/>

2 Overview of ECHO framework

Country	Has potential for international alignment of Singapore's ECI services.
Global Child Outcomes (GCO)	Based on 3 functional global child outcomes (GCO): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Having positive social-emotional relationships; 2) Acquiring and using knowledge; and 3) Using appropriate behaviour to meet needs Functional outcomes provide more comprehensive understanding of child's ability and are potentially better predictors of future integration into society.
Measurement Process of GCO	The multi-source process that reflects outcomes from different contexts provides a holistic understanding of the child. This requires training and understanding of functional outcomes measurement amongst the ECI professionals for successful implementation. It yields richer outcome data of greater social validity.
Family Outcomes (FO)	Based on 3 family outcomes (FO): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Understanding their child's strengths, abilities and special needs; 2) Helping their child develop and learn; and 3) Knowing how to communicate their child's needs to others, and accessing relevant services and support
Measurement Process of FO	ECHO currently uses the FO Survey to measure FO, which has been validated in Singapore. ²

3 Impact of ECHO framework

The pilot of the ECHO Framework succeeded in gaining traction on the ground

Impact on children and their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 children and their families have benefited from the ECHO Framework • 95% of the 56 families, who participated in the Global Child Outcomes (GCO) summary reporting of their child, found it easy to understand, accurate and useful
Impact on professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 professionals have been trained in the ECHO Framework • More than 70% of professionals found the functional assessment useful, feasible and important at first trial

² Poon, Ooi, Bull, & Bailey (2014). Psychometric validation of the Family Outcome Survey-Revised in Singapore. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 35, 1534-1543.