


Birth to 3 Program

Early Intervention...Because the first three years build a lifetime



The Birth to 3 Program is a federally mandated program (Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act - IDEA) to assist and support families of children with delays or disabilities under the age of three.

The Birth to 3 Program will work with you to evaluate your child's development and develop a plan for services based on your family and child's strengths, concerns, and needs. We will also provide information about additional community resources and assist you with accessing them. We are here to offer you and your family advocacy and support!

Birth to 3 Brochure	
Referrals to Birth to 3	Payment of Services
Guiding Principles	Your Rights in the Birth to 3 Programs

If you would like to make a referral, request a free screening, or if you have any questions or concerns about the way your child is developing please do not wait to call: **Juneau County Department of Human Services**

Birth to Three Program
Kelly Firlus
220 E. LaCrosse Street
Mauston, WI 53948
(608) 847-9498

Program Eligibility

The Birth to 3 Program is for children ages birth to 36 months who are diagnosed with a disability or significant delay in one or more areas of development.

- Areas of development include: thinking or learning skills, movement skills, talking and understanding skills, feeding, daily living skills, interactions, and play skills.
- Disabilities include: a diagnosed medical, physical, or mental condition that may affect a child's development such as: Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Chronic Illness, Vision or Hearing Impairments, Etc.



Referrals to Birth to 3 Program



The referral network consists of doctors, nurses, hospitals, clinics, schools, child care centers, and other organizations or agencies that come into contact with young children. As a parent, you are a part of this referral network as it is often the parents who are the first to be concerned about their child's development.

Parents know their child best and are key members on the Early Intervention team. If you have concerns about your child's development please do not hesitate to call your local Birth to 3 Program at 608-847-2400 or 608-847-9498.

- What is your child doing?

Payment of Services

The Birth to 3 Programs are funded through a variety of funding sources including:

- The **Federal Government** provides funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C.
- The **State of Wisconsin** provides funding to the county you live in.
- Some **county** Birth to 3 programs have other funding sources such as grants, fundraisers, or agency funds.
- **Families** that are in the Birth to 3 program are asked to provide access to bill their own insurance company.
- In Wisconsin we have a **Parental Cost Share System** where parents, who are determined able financially, share in the cost of early intervention services for their child. If your child may be eligible for Badger Care Plus, Medicaid, or Katie Beckett programs, you will be asked to apply. For more information on the Parental Cost Share System, see the following brochure: (English and Spanish)

Guiding Principles For



Guiding principles outline what we believe to be important when working with you and your child(ren). These principles provide a framework for our decision making. The following guiding principles were adopted by the Governor's appointed Interagency Coordinating Council in December, 1988.

Children's optimal development depends on their being viewed first as children and second as children with a problem or disability. All children have the same basic needs for acceptance, affection, nurturing and security. The system should encourage the integration of children with disabilities with children who do not have disabilities. The developmental, social, emotional and physical needs of all children must be considered in the delivery of any service. We must always ask ourselves, are we considering the whole child or just one facet of the child?

Children's greatest resource is their family. Children are best served within the context of family. Young children's needs are closely tied to the needs of their family. Both must be met to adequately serve the child. The nurturing, love, and commitment of a family cannot be replaced by any array of services. The best way to support the children and meet their needs is to support and build upon the individual strengths of their family. The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) focuses on how the system can support the "whole" family, its cultural values, strengths, and needs.

Parents are partners in any activity that serves their children. Parents or primary caregivers have a unique understanding of their children's needs. They are primary teachers of their children. They have the special bond of kinship and commitment that no professional will ever have. They must be

given the opportunity and encouragement to be a part of the decision-making process and empowered so that they are a partner in the services developed for their child.

Just as children are best supported within the context of family, the family is best supported within the context of the community. Families depend on the positive relationships they make through the formal and informal networks in the community. Community resources should be open and able to respond to all families. Successful supportive services value the integrity of the family, its unique needs and cultural heritage, and provide a link to traditional community resources.

Professionals are most effective when they can work as a team member with parents and others. This requires flexibility and openness, joint training experiences, shared views of infant and family development, and commitment to team cooperation. The abilities of a variety of individuals both paid and volunteer to teach, assist, and develop relationships which help families must be recognized and promoted.

Collaboration is the best way to provide comprehensive services. No single agency is able to provide all services to all children and families. Cooperation and shared responsibility are necessary components of a service system that is able to meet the varied needs of children and families. Just as agencies must establish partnerships at the local level, the state must assume a role as a partner with local communities to enhance our mutual ability to serve young children with disabling conditions and their families.

Early intervention enhances the development of children. Early intervention is appropriate for children and families. It is often cost efficient and effective for society and the taxpayer. The goals of early intervention are to: enhance the capacity of families to meet the special needs of their child, maximize the potential for independent living, and reduce costs to our society.

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES



* Even though all children are different, there are certain milestones that children are expected to achieve by certain ages such as rolling over, crawling, sitting, walking, talking and understanding what is being said to them (to name a few). This developmental checklist is not meant to diagnose your child but rather to serve as a guideline for parents to use when concerns arise regarding your child's development.

3 months: holds head up, grasps objects, babbles, coos, and turns towards sounds

6 months: rolls from back to stomach, reaches for toys, sits with support, mouths objects

9 months: crawls, grasps with thumb and forefinger, imitates sounds, holds, bites, and chews crackers

12 months: stands alone, takes steps, builds tower of 2 blocks, follows simple instructions, finger feeds self

15 months: walks alone, seldom falls, scribbles, names objects, begins using spoons

24 months: combines words, jumps in place, turns page of book, points to 4 body parts, initiates play activities

36 months: walks up and down stairs, copies a circle, points to small details in a picture

Your Rights in the Birth to 3 Program



The Birth to 3 Program has specific rights (English and Spanish) and procedural safeguards for children and families. These are your legal assurances that the Birth to 3 Program will follow specific procedures, respecting your views and preferences about the services your child and family receive.

There may be time when you disagree with the county Birth to 3 agency about your child's early intervention services. This is called a dispute. As a parent, you have the right to disagree with the decisions made regarding evaluation for eligibility, assessment results, services, or payment of services for your child.

Most county Birth to 3 Programs have a local process for resolving conflicts; please ask your Service Coordinator for more information. You have the following **additional options** available to you to resolve the dispute: Mediation, Due Process Hearing, and IDEA Complaint.