

The Birth to 3 Program Works With and for Families

The Individualized Family Service Plan Team

Once the child is found eligible for the Birth to 3 Program, a team (including you) works together to decide which services best fit your family's goals and outcomes. This Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team includes, but is not limited to:

- You, the parent(s) or caregiver(s)
- Other family members as requested
- An advocate or friend as requested
- The service coordinator
- At least one professional who evaluated the child
- Service providers

The Individualized Family Service Plan

Together, the team creates the IFSP. Your family's routine, values, culture, and priorities are used to guide the IFSP. It includes goals and outcomes important to your family and the strategies, resources, supports, and services that are needed to reach them.



All county Birth to 3 Programs:
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/contacts



The Birth to 3 Program is Wisconsin's early intervention program mandated by Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/family



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

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Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program

A good start in the first 1,000 days

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program serves families with children under the age of 3 years who have delays or disabilities.

Once a child is found eligible, a team of professional service providers partners with your family to support growth and learning. Family culture, beliefs, and individual needs help shape how services are delivered.

Important Steps to Support the Development of the Child

1. You or another adult in the child's life notices signs of a delay or disability.

Every child learns and grows at their own pace, but there are general milestones every child should meet as they develop how they play, learn, speak, act, and move.

Parents and caregivers often notice signs of delays in these areas. Doctors or child care professionals tell families if they notice these signs as well.

When a possible delay or disability is noticed, acting early is the best way to positively impact the development of the child. Learn more about acting early at actearly.wisc.edu.

2. You contact your local county Birth to 3 Program.

You can contact your local county Birth to 3 Program to learn about the program. They will help you understand if the program is right for the child and family and answer any questions you have.

If the child's doctor, nurse, child care staff, teacher, or other professional believes the Birth to 3 Program could benefit the child, they will refer you to the program. In most cases, they will talk with you before making a referral.

3. You meet with a team to see if the child is eligible.

Once the county receives a referral and with your consent, a team (including you, as a parent or caregiver) will evaluate the child to see if they are eligible for the Birth to 3 Program.

The team will discuss how the child:

- Learns (cognitive development).
- Moves, sees, and hears (physical/motor development).
- Communicates and understands others (speech, language, and communication development).
- Responds to and develops relationships with others (social and emotional development).
- Eats, dresses, and cares for daily living needs (adaptive behavior and self-help development).



4. The child is eligible and services begin.

After the evaluation, the team will meet to talk through the results and identify if you are eligible for early intervention. A diagnosis is not needed to be eligible.

You will work with a primary service provider to help the child learn, interact, and thrive at home, in child care, and during other everyday activities like going to the library, store, or park. The primary service provider will be determined by your family and child's goals and outcomes.

As a parent or caregiver, you will learn how to be the child's first and best teacher. You will learn about communicating the child's needs, helping the child learn and grow, and understanding your rights.

Your family and primary service provider will be supported by the full team of professional services providers, which includes a service coordinator, special education teacher, and therapists.