

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program

*"Conversations on Showing Up for Kids" Presentation
Hosted by
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs*



Wisconsin Department of Health Services Staff: Regena Floyd-Sambou
Wednesday, January 19, 2021
12-12:45 p.m.
Zoom

Brain Development

Recent brain research indicates that **birth to age 3** are the most important years in a child's development.

In the first three years, a child's brain has up to twice as many nerve cells connections as it will have in adulthood.

About the Birth to 3 Program

Serves families with children under the age of 3 who have delays or disabilities

Who?
A team of professional service providers to support the child's growth and learning

What?
Services include special education, occupational, speech, physical therapy and more

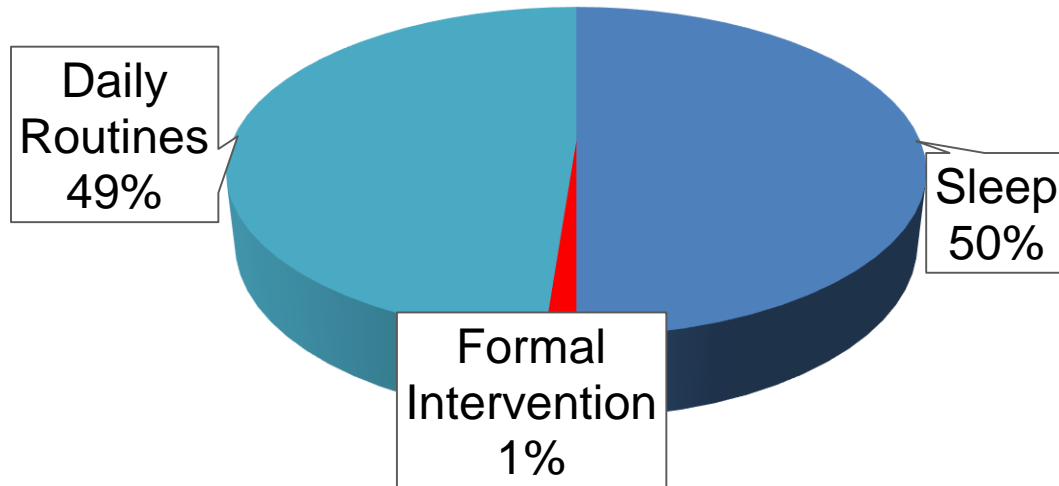
When?
Eligibility: diagnosed disability or condition, 25% delay in one or more areas of development, atypical development

Where?
In the natural environment: family, friends, in the home, community, during the family's routines and activities

How?
An Individualized Family Service Plan lists the services, tracks progress and includes steps to help with transitions

Why? A Typical Week

Where do infants and toddlers spend their time?



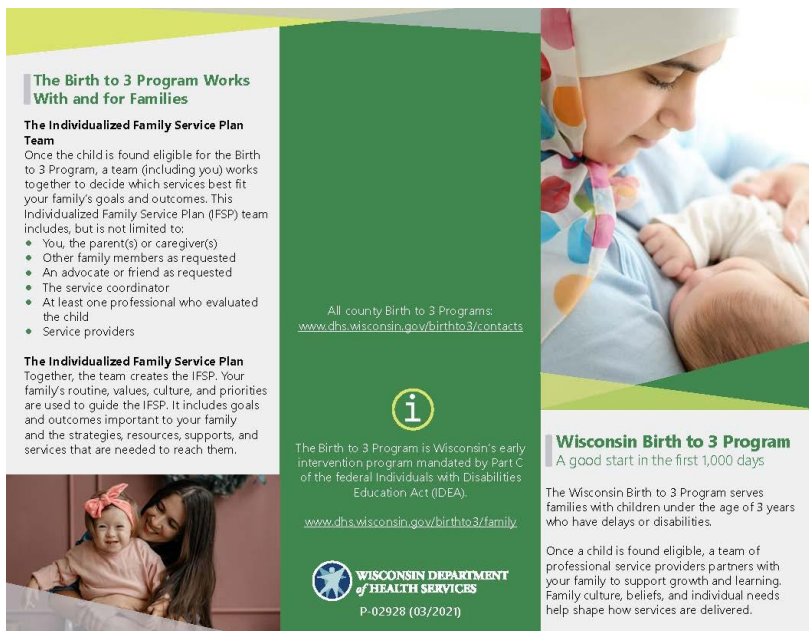
Who can Make a Referral?

ANYONE

- Parents, grandparents, family members, caregivers
- Hospitals and clinics (including prenatal and postnatal care)
- Child care and early learning programs
- Local education agencies and schools
- Child welfare, child protective services, foster care
- Public health, community and social services agencies

Brochure

- For families
- Print, digital
- Explains the Birth to 3 Program



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

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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
P-02928 (03/2021)

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.

Services at a Glance

- For families
- Print, digital
- Explains the supports and services available to families in the Birth to 3 Program



**Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program
Services at a Glance**

The early intervention supports and services below are available through the Birth to 3 Program. All services are based on the individual goals and outcomes of your family and child. Decisions about services are made together as a team, and put your family and the child first.

You will partner with a service coordinator, who will help you locate and coordinate needed services and supports. All services are provided and funded based on federal requirements. The Birth to 3 Program allows you to access services that help you meet your goals and outcomes, no matter what the funding source is.

Early intervention services help the child learn, interact, and thrive at home, in child care, and during other everyday activities. Learning and growing happens in the places your family spends time and during activities the child finds fun and engaging. The Birth to 3 Program provides services where you are every day. This helps the child develop and practice new skills in the places they will use them.

Primary Services

Service Coordination
Helps your family and child access early intervention services and understand your rights. Service coordinators schedule evaluations, help create the service plan, and connect you with what you need.

Special Education
Engages the child in activities that support their learning and development. This includes ideas that help them grow, learn, play, and get along with others. Individualized strategies are shared to help the child's learning, skills, and overall development.

Occupational Therapy
Helps the child build new skills by practicing day-to-day activities. These new skills will help them play, move, and interact with the world around them. These services help increase the child's ability to take part in daily routines and activities at home, in the community, and other places your family spends time.

Physical Therapy
Helps support the child's physical and muscle development. This helps them move, play, and participate in day-to-day activities. Physical therapy services also help reduce pain and prevent or minimize physical disabilities.

Speech and Language Services
Help the child understand and use language. Speech services include identifying concerns and finding activities that can strengthen muscles so the child can make clear speech sounds. Speech services might also help the child use a speech device and refer them to medical or other professional services when necessary.

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of HEALTH SERVICES
P-03011 (06/2021)

Referral Tip Sheet

- For health and child care professionals
- Print, digital
- Helps professionals understand their role in the referral network

Tips for Birth to 3 Program Referrals

Understand your role in the Birth to 3 Program referral network.

As a health care professional, child care provider, educator, child welfare staff, or other professional who works with children, you are part of the [Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program](#) referral network. This tip sheet will help you understand the importance of noticing signs of delays or disabilities in young children, your responsibility to refer families to early intervention programs, and how to make a referral to the Birth to 3 Program. Early intervention can help children catch up developmentally and can help parents get answers to important questions so they can better meet their child's needs. For more tools and information on early intervention, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#) website.

1 Notice signs of a delay or disability

If you notice a child who shows signs of developmental delays or disabilities, has atypical development, or has or may have been abused or neglected, a screening can help you understand more. The Birth to 3 Program encourages health, child care, and education professionals to use the [Ages & Stages Questionnaire](#), screening tool to pinpoint developmental progress and identify possible delays in young children. A screening can be valuable to understanding a child's development, but it is **not** required to have completed a screening before you make a referral to the Birth to 3 Program.

2 Explore options with the family

If you think early intervention could benefit the child, talk with the family about program benefits and your steps to making a referral. They will probably have a lot of questions. Learning that a child in their care has a possible delay or disability can result in different reactions and feelings.

Use the Birth to 3 Program First 1,000 Days toolkit to learn more about talking with families about the program. You can also direct them to contact their [county Birth to 3 Program](#) to learn more.

3 Make a referral to the county Birth to 3 Program

When you identify a child with signs of developmental delays or a disability, you should make a referral. **If you are a Medicaid-enrolled provider, you must** make a referral. Remember, anyone can make a referral, including doctors, nurses, day care staff, child welfare staff, and others who work with children. It is helpful to talk with families about the program and what a referral means.

To make a referral, you can use the [Referral to Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program](#) form, F 00688, and send it to the [primary point of contact](#) for the county Birth to 3 Program where the family lives. You do not need the family's consent to refer them to the Birth to 3 Program. Getting the family's consent, however, is encouraged so medical information can be shared between medical providers and the Birth to 3 Program. Children who might be eligible include:

- Children with a diagnosed condition
- Children suspected of having developmental delays
- Children with atypical development
- Children with disabilities
- Children who have been affected by abuse, neglect, or trauma

The child does **not** need a diagnosis to be eligible for the Birth to 3 Program. Once you have completed the referral form, please attach any screening results you collected and indicate all areas of delays or disabilities. After receiving the referral, the county Birth to 3 Program will conduct an eligibility evaluation.

Note: All health, social service, education, and tribal programs that receive Medicaid funding, including Medicaid-enrolled providers, are required to refer eligible children to the Birth to 3 Program within two days of identification. More information about this requirement can be found in the [Requirements for Providers](#) topic (#788) in the ForwardHealth Online Handbook.

Improved Webpages

- [Information for Families](#)
- [Eligibility](#)
- [Child Development](#)

Birth to 3 Program Home

Information for Families

- Who is Eligible
- Program Costs
- Information for Counties
- Information for Providers
- Contact Us
- Services for Children with Delay and Disabilities

Get Vaccinated

Add our email list!

Get us to make email notices about the Birth to 3 Program.

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program for Families

COVID-19 Updates

We are committed to protecting the health and safety of our members and participants during the COVID-19 pandemic. To stay informed about the latest program updates, initiatives to limit person contacts, general COVID-19 resources, and more:

- Members and participants please visit [COVID-19 Program and Family-Ready Update for You and Your Child](#).
- County agencies please visit [COVID-19 Update for County Agencies Serving Children with Delay or Disability](#).
- Providers please visit the [COVID-19 Response Health News and Resource Portal page](#).

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention special education program that supports the growth and development of children under the age of 3 who have delay or disability. "Early intervention" is the term used to describe services and supports available to babies and young children with developmental delay and disabilities and their families. In Wisconsin, early intervention is known as the Birth to 3 Program.

The Birth to 3 Program values that a child's love and most important relationships are with the family. Together with your family, the program supports the child's development and your family's knowledge, skills, and abilities to best interact with and raise the child. Your family's culture, beliefs, and individual needs help shape how services are delivered.

Once found eligible, supports and services are provided by a team of professionals. They are meant to help boost your ability and confidence to support the growth and development of the child.

New to the Birth to 3 Program or want more information? Use the menu at the left of this page to learn about:

- Eligibility requirements
- How to connect us
- Program costs and parental cost share

The Birth to 3 Program Team

| DHS | County | RSP Team |
|---------------------|--------|----------|
| DHS | | |

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) administers the Birth to 3 Program at the state level. DHS works with counties, and a local public health department, to provide services to children and their families.

A team of [RSP providers](#) are available to help you.

Services

Together, your RSP provider, health outcomes advisor, and other professionals can help you meet your child's needs. The services you receive are based on your child's needs. RSP might include speech therapy, occupational therapy, and other services. The RSP is a public health program. It is not a social service program. For more information, visit [www.wisconsin.gov/health](#).

Your Rights

Families participating in the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program have several rights that help wash child and family needs support and services fully. DHS is committed to helping the Birth to 3 Program website to all families.

What laws and regulations does the program have to follow?

What are my rights? ▲

How do I make conflicts or disagreements? ▲

Resources

| DHS/Providers | Partners | Support |
|---|----------|---------|
| All in for Kids: A Birth to 3 Program Family Ready Update | | |
| How to Connect Us | | |
| How to Connect Us: A Guide for Families | | |

Let's Talk

Questions, Comments

What else would you like to know?

More Information

Search web for:

[Birth to 3 Program for Families](#)

[Birth to 3 Program Outreach Campaign Family](#)

To contact your local county Birth to 3 Program:

[Birth to 3 Program: Contact Us](#)

State Contacts:

[Birth to 3 Program Children and Family Program Specialists](#)

Thank you!