



A child's development is rapid in the first three years.

A great deal of learning takes place during this time.

Some children who have developmental delays or disabilities need extra support.

The Birth to 3 Program is one way to provide this support.



The Birth to 3 Program Mission Statement

The Birth to 3 Program is committed to children under the age of three with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. We value the family's primary relationship with their child and work in partnership with the family. We work to enhance the child's development and support the family's knowledge, skills, and abilities as they interact with and raise their child.

Services will be provided in the child's natural environments. These settings are unique to each family and might include the home, child care, and other community settings.

WHERE ARE PROGRAMS LOCATED?

The Birth to 3 Program is available in every county in Wisconsin. Each county has designated an agency that is responsible for the operation of the program in that county. The program may be called by a different name, but it is available to provide services to children with delays or disabilities.

To find out how to contact the Birth to 3 program in your county, you can call the statewide number for information and referral:

**Wisconsin First Step
1-800-642-STEP**

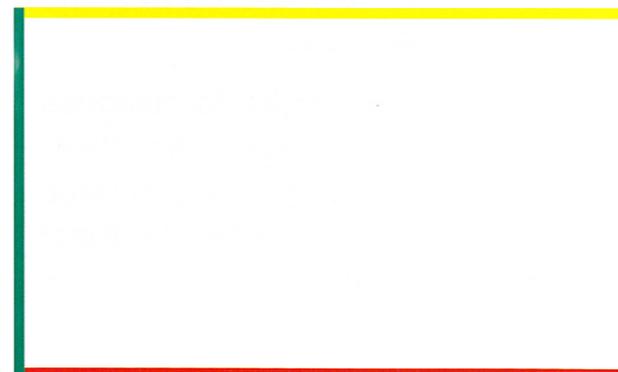
NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For state level information contact:

Department of Health Services
Birth to 3 Program
P.O. Box 7851
Madison, WI 53707-7851
(608) 266-8276

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/birthto3/index.htm

For local information contact:



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WISCONSIN'S EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Because the first three years build a lifetime.

Department of Health
Services

Facts About the Birth to 3 Program

WHAT IS THE BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM?

Birth to 3 is Wisconsin's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. A federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provides a framework for a comprehensive program and coordinates developmental, health and social services within the community. The Department of Health Services oversees the Birth to 3 Program in Wisconsin and has developed rules (DHS 90) that specify the program requirements.

HOW WILL THE BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM HELP?

The earlier a child's developmental delays are discovered, the more opportunities there are for a child to increase skills and abilities. The goal is to help children participate in their communities.

In addition to the skills the child develops, Birth to 3 Programs are committed to providing services in a way that makes sense for each family. This "family centered" program recognizes the importance of parents, family and friends in a young child's life. The early intervention team will provide ideas and techniques to help a family enhance their child's development and learning potential.

HOW ARE FAMILIES' RIGHTS PROTECTED?

Specific rights for children and families are built into the Birth to 3 Program. These procedural safeguards are legal requirements. They assure that the Birth to 3 Program will follow specific procedures that protect the rights of children and families. Some of these rights include:

- ✓ **Parents must give written consent for any evaluations, assessments or services.**
- ✓ **Participation is voluntary, so parents can refuse any services, evaluations or assessments.**
- ✓ **Records will be kept confidential.**
- ✓ **Parents can review or request corrections to their child's and family's records.**
- ✓ **Parents have a right to disagree with decisions regarding their child's eligibility or the provision of appropriate services to their child and family.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES?

The Birth to 3 Program is for children ages birth to 36 months. Eligibility is based on a diagnosed disability or significant delay in one or more areas of development. The team will evaluate the child's ability to: **learn** (cognitive development); **move, see and hear** (physical/motor development); **communicate and understand other's communication** (speech and language development); **respond to and relate with others** (social and emotional development); and **eat, dress and care for daily living needs** (adaptive development). A Birth to 3 service coordinator helps the family understand and participate in the evaluation process.

Services and supports a child and family receive are based on individual needs. Eligibility for this program is not affected by the family's income; however, parents may need to contribute to the costs of services.

WHAT SERVICES AND SUPPORTS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE?

If the child is eligible for the program, the **service coordinator** works with the family to see that the family and their child receive the services and supports they need within the family's natural environment. The service coordinator and other early intervention staff meet with the family to discuss the child's developmental strengths and needs. This team, including the parents, determines what services and supports would enhance the child's development and prepares a plan to provide supports and services within the family's typical routines and activities. This plan is called an Individualized Family Service Plan or IFSP.

Some of the services and supports that might

be provided to meet the developmental outcomes identified in an IFSP include:



Family Education

Developmental Education Services

Communication Services

Related Health Services

Occupational Therapy

Physical Therapy