

Birth to 3 Program Mission

The Birth to 3 Program is committed to serving children under the age of 3 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.



Birth to 3 Program Guiding Principles

- Children's optimal development depends on their being viewed first as children and second as children with a disability.
- Children's greatest resource is their family.
- Parents are partners in any activity that services their children.
- Just as children are best supported within the context of the family, the family is best supported within the context of the community.
- Professionals are most effective when they can work as a team member with parents and others.
- Collaboration is the best way to provide comprehensive services.
- Early intervention enhances the development of children.

Where are programs located?

The Birth to 3 Program is available in every county in Wisconsin. Each county has a designated agency that is responsible for providing Birth to 3 Program services.

To find out the contact information for the Birth to 3 Program in your county, call: Wisconsin First Step
1-800-642-STEP or visit
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM

1 West Wilson Street • P.O. Box 7851
Madison, WI 53707-7851

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



P-23163 (12/2014)



FAMILIES ARE THE FOUNDATION

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

WISCONSIN'S BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM



BIRTH TO 3

Families are the Foundation



What is the Birth to 3 Program?

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

How are families' rights protected?

- Parents provide written consent for evaluations, assessments and services.
- Records are kept confidential.
- Parents may review their child's records and request changes or corrections.
- Parents have the right to disagree with decisions regarding their child's eligibility or the provision of appropriate services to their child and family.
- Participation is voluntary.

Who is eligible to receive Birth to 3 Program services?

The Birth to 3 Program is for children ages birth to 36 months. Eligibility is based on a diagnosed disability or developmental delay of 25 percent in one or more areas of development determined through an evaluation.



The Birth to 3 program team will evaluate 5 areas of development.

- **Cognitive development:** how your child learns
- **Physical/motor development:** how your child moves, sees and hears
- **Speech and language development:** how your child communicates and understand other's communication
- **Social and Emotional development:** how your child respond, relates and plays with others
- **Adaptive development:** how your child eats, dresses and cares for his/her daily living needs.

When a child is eligible for the program, the service coordinator will work with the family to ensure services and supports are in place to meet the outcomes identified by the family. An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed with the family to direct services.

How does the Birth to 3 Program support children and families?

The Birth to 3 Program provides support to parents and caregivers in identifying and building upon their child's participation in everyday routines and activities unique to that particular family.

The Birth to 3 Program's practices are supported by research. These practices are commonly referred to as evidence-based practices. There are three important components of the Birth to 3 Program evidence-based practices. The 3 components of Birth to 3 Program practices meet the requirement of the Part C of the IDEA law.

- **Natural Learning Environment Practices:** Use of your family's everyday activities and your child's interests; Services are provided in the child's natural environment, including home, child care and other settings.
- **Coaching as an Interaction Style:** An adult learning strategy that promotes the parents' or caregivers' confidence and competence in supporting a child's learning and development.
- **Primary Coach Approach to Teaming:** All families and children are supported by a early interventionists (EI) team. One member of the EI team, with the support of whole EI team, acts as the primary coach to parents and other primary caregivers.