

All in for Kids

A Birth to 3 Program Family Newsletter

All in for Kids: Birth to 3 Program is a newsletter that helps to keep you and your family informed about the services available through the Birth to 3 Program. The newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).



Understanding your rights in the Birth to 3 Program

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is here to support your child's development and help your family get the services you need. As a family in the program, you have rights that help protect your child and guide the services you receive. Knowing and understanding these rights empowers you to make informed decisions about your child's early intervention journey.

Your rights as a family

As a family enrolled in the Birth to 3 Program, you have specific rights to help make sure you get fair services and treatment. You have the right to:

- **Access services:** Your child is entitled to early intervention services, if they qualify.
- **Be involved in decisions:** You have the right to be actively involved in decisions about your child's services and to help create an individualized family service plan (IFSP).
- **Privacy and confidentiality:** Your child's personal information is protected and cannot be shared without your consent.
- **Understand your options:** You have the right to be informed about all available services and to ask questions about the supports your child receives.
- **Resolve concerns:** If you disagree with a decision made by the program, you have the right to voice your concerns and seek a resolution.

The laws that protect your rights

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program follows federal and state laws that ensure children with developmental delays or disabilities receive appropriate services.

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA) Part C (sites.ed.gov/idea/statute-chapter-33/subchapter-iv/part-c), is the federal law that makes early intervention services available to infants and toddlers with disabilities.
- Wisconsin's DHS 90 Administrative Code (docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dhs/030/90/Title) provides state-specific rules for how the Birth to 3 Program must operate.

These laws ensure that all children and families in the program receive high-quality services tailored to their needs.

What is an INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP?)

The IFSP is a document that has information about your family, the outcomes (goals) that you have set and what services will be provided to help your child and family reach those outcomes. It is a roadmap to success. It's customized, includes what you think is important, and adapts as your child grows. It's a way to make sure your child gets to enjoy being a kid while learning and developing at their own pace, with you cheering them on every step of the way.

The information provided in this newsletter is published in accordance with U.S. Department of Education, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Part C Regulations Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities.

What if you disagree with a decision?


The IFSP team, which includes your family, will make many decisions about supports and services for your child and family. There may be times when you have concerns about your child's services, eligibility, or assessment results. If you disagree with a decision, you have several options to resolve the issue:

- **Talk with your service coordinator:** Ask questions and share your concerns to better understand the decision.
- **Request mediation:** A neutral third party can help facilitate a discussion to reach an agreement.
 - Visit dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm for more information on mediation.
- **Ask for a due process hearing:** This is a formal legal process where a hearing officer reviews your concern and makes a decision.
 - Visit dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/hearings.htm for more information on hearings.
- **File an IDEA complaint:** If you believe the Birth to 3 program is not following IDEA regulations, you can submit a formal complaint.
 - Visit dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/complaints.htm for more information on how to submit a complaint.

Your service coordinator can provide more details about each of these options and help guide you through the process.

How to learn more about your rights

To better understand your rights as a family in the Birth to 3 Program, check out the Your Child's and Family's Birth to 3 Program Rights document (dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-21106). It provides detailed information on your protections and what to do if you have concerns.



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We're here to support you!

The Birth to 3 Program is committed to partnering with families to ensure children receive the services they need. If you have questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to talk to your primary service provider or reach out to your service coordinator. Your service coordinators information can be found on your family's IFSP. By understanding your rights, you can make the best choices for your child's development and well-being. ❖

Understanding child outcomes in the Birth to 3 Program

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is designed to help young children with developmental delays and disabilities grow, learn, and thrive. One way we measure the impact of these early intervention services is through child outcomes—a way to track how well children are developing while receiving support.

What are child outcomes?

A child outcome is a way to measure how well the Birth to 3 Program is helping your child learn and grow. Every state, including Wisconsin, is required to report child outcome data to the federal government to ensure children and families like yours are receiving effective services.

The child outcome results help counties and the state understand how helpful early intervention supports and services:

- Helped your child to make progress in their development.
- Helped your child gain new skills.
- Can be improved to better support for your family.

CHILD OUTCOMES DATA

Child outcomes data help us understand how well a child can do everyday activities.

Check out the Birth to 3 Program child outcomes dashboard: dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/reports/child-outcomes.htm



The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is a statewide program. Each county is responsible for delivering supports and services to children found eligible for the program who live in the county. Child outcome results are shared with each county to show the progress made by the children served through their local Birth to 3 Program.

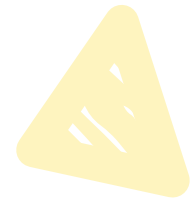
The state compiles child outcome results from every county to assess the overall progress made by children receiving early intervention services across Wisconsin. These statewide results are then reported to the federal Department of Education.

Measuring child outcomes

Your child in the Birth to 3 Program is measured in three key areas:

- 1. Social-emotional skills (including social relationships)**
 - How your child interacts with you and other children
 - Examples: Smiling back at a caregiver, playing with other kids, expressing emotions in a way others understand
- 2. Learning and skills (including early language and communication)**
 - How your child explores and learns new things, including communication
 - Examples: Looking at books, imitating sounds or words, using gestures like waving or pointing
- 3. Ability of your child meeting their own needs**
 - How your child moves, eats, and takes care of their basic needs
 - Examples: Picking up food to eat, learning to use a spoon, moving from sitting to standing, or indicating hunger

These three areas are all connected. They give the IFSP team a complete picture of how your child is developing.



DID YOU KNOW?

The individualized family service plan (IFSP) team supports children with disabilities or delays and their families. This team includes the family, service support coordinator, evaluators, providers, and, when appropriate, other specialists or advocates. Together, they work collaboratively to develop and carry out the plan.

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What is the child outcomes process?

The child outcomes rating process happens only twice while your child is in the Birth to 3 Program:

1. When your child enters the program
2. When your child exits the program

This process provides a snapshot of your child's development at the start and end of their services. It helps you and the IFSP team understand how much your child has learned and grown.

Your child's skills in the three outcome areas are rated on a scale from 1 to 7. These numbers help measure how much your child is developing skills expected for their age or if some skills are delayed.

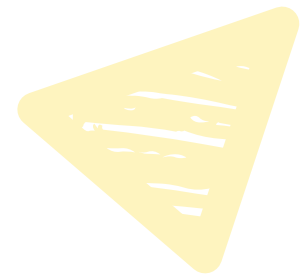
This process does not compare your child to other children in the program. Instead, it looks at how your child's skills compare to the skills of typically developing children of the same age.

How does the IFSP team complete this process?

The IFSP team works together to assess your child's development by:

- Observing your child in everyday settings (home, daycare, playground, grocery store, etc.).
- Gathering input from people who know your child best—like you and childcare providers.
- Discussing how your child behaves in different environments, such as at grandparents' homes, during playtime, or at a sibling's sports game.

By looking at all this information, the team can accurately measure your child's development and determine how closely their skills align with age-appropriate milestones to better understand their progress.



Learn more about DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

The CDC provides a helpful guide to typical child development milestones.

Check it out here:

cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html



How can you participate in the child outcomes process?

You are the expert on your child! Your observations and input are essential in understanding your child's growth. Here's how you can be involved:

- **Share what you see every day:** You witness your child's progress in ways that professionals may not.
- **Describe how your child interacts in different settings:** This includes at home, daycare, with family members, and in the community.
- **Talk about your child's culture and family expectations:** Every family is unique, and cultural differences play a role in child development. For example, in some cultures, parents may continue feeding their child longer, while others encourage self-feeding at an earlier age.
- **Provide information from medical visits:** This can help the team understand your child's overall development.

The more information families share, the more accurate and meaningful your child's outcome ratings will be! Accurate ratings help families, IFSP teams, the state, and the federal government know what works well in early intervention and also how the program can improve.

How can I learn more?

- Talk to your service provider or service coordinator about the child outcomes process.
- Attend a Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) meeting to hear updates about the program. To learn more about the ICC, please visit dhs.wi.gov/b3icc/index.htm.
- Join the ICC and share your insights to help improve early intervention services across Wisconsin. ❖

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Join an ICC meeting

Upcoming meetings:

- May 9 at the Circles of Life Conference
- For the meeting schedule, please visit dhs.wis.gov/b3icc/meetings.htm.

Public comments:

- You're invited to attend each meeting even if you're not a member of the ICC. There is time for public comments at the start of each meeting.
- The ICC helps make sure the Birth to 3 Program supports children and families. Your input helps improve the program.

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Family spotlight: Starra's journey with the Birth to 3 Program

Every child's journey is unique, and for Starra, early intervention played a big role in helping her reach important milestones. With the support of her speech therapist, Danelle, and her loving family, Starra made incredible progress in her speech development. Her story is one of perseverance, care, and success!

Getting started with speech therapy

Starra was born with a soft cleft palate, which can affect speech development. When she was 1 year and 9 months old, her parents decided to enroll her in the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program to ensure she continued making progress. That's when she met Danelle, her speech therapist from Wood County.

Danelle began working with Starra twice a month in their home, where she felt most comfortable. By providing personalized, in-home support, Danelle helped Starra build confidence in her communication skills while making therapy a natural part of everyday life.

Overcoming challenges with care and support

Not long after starting therapy, Starra underwent a second surgery to repair her soft palate. Through this time, Danelle remained in tune with Starra's needs, adjusting therapy to support her recovery while still helping her grow in her speech development.

With dedication and encouragement, Starra continued making amazing progress. Her parents were grateful for the individualized care she received and were impressed by Danelle's ability to meet Starra where she was—always providing patient, expert guidance to support her speech growth.

Celebrating Starra's success!

Now that Starra has turned 3, she is speaking as well as any other child her age—and even has an extended vocabulary! Her progress has been so remarkable that she no longer qualifies for speech therapy through the school district.



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Starra’s parents are incredibly proud of what she has accomplished and grateful for the role that Danelle and the Birth to 3 Program played in her journey.

“We are very pleased with the service Danelle provided to our family—she is great at what she does! Thanks to her help, Starra is thriving!” ❖

The Birth to 3 Program wants your family stories and photos!

The All in for Kids newsletter is for families. We want to feature your photos and experiences for other readers to enjoy! You can share things like:

- A positive interaction with the Birth to 3 Program.
- An example of how the Birth to 3 Program has helped your family or child.
- A photo or story of an activity you did with your child.
- A photo of artwork or something else your child has made.

Email your family story or photo to dhsbirthto3@dhs.wisconsin.gov with “All in for Kids” in the subject line. You can also send ideas for stories you would like to see in the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you! ❖

Helpful resources for families

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Declares 2025 the Year of the Kid: “If We Want to Improve Our Kids’ Outcomes, Then We Have to Shorten the Odds.” The Governor’s 2025-27 Executive Budget declaration builds on the administration’s commitment to doing what’s best for kids, bolstering youth mental health, ensuring safe drinking water in schools and communities, and more.

View the press release here: content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3ce3a56 ❖

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

For faster delivery, sign up to get the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the Birth to 3 Program. Go to dhs.wi.gov/aboutdhs/alerts.htm and scroll down and click the Birth to 3 Program Information for Families link.

Don’t forget to tell your family and friends in the Birth to 3 Program to sign up as well!

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Learn more about the Birth to 3 Program

The First 1,000 Days brochure gives an overview of the program: dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-02928.

The Birth to 3 Program Services at a Glance guide explains the supports and services available: dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-03011.

The Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers with Delays and Disabilities in Wisconsin booklet helps you understand how early intervention helps your family and child learn and grow together: dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-03022.

Previous issues of the All in for Kids newsletter: Birth to 3 Program are available online: dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2024. ❖

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All in for Kids: Birth to 3 Program is a newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for children and families in the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program.

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention program committed to serving children under the age of 3 with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. The program partners with families to assist the child's development and support the family's knowledge, skills, and abilities as they interact with and raise their child. For more information, visit dhs.wi.gov/children/index.htm.

Para leer este boletín en español, visite dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2025.

Xav nyeem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2025.

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