

# All in for Kids

A CLTS Program Family Newsletter

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



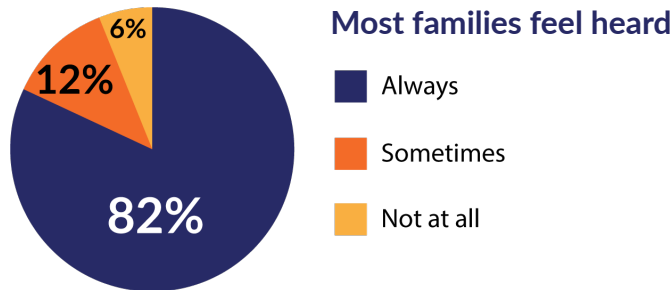
## Deciding Together: The results are in!

Deciding Together is the team approach used to make decisions about supports and services for your child and family. In this approach, you are a key team member and expert in your family's goals, strengths, and needs.

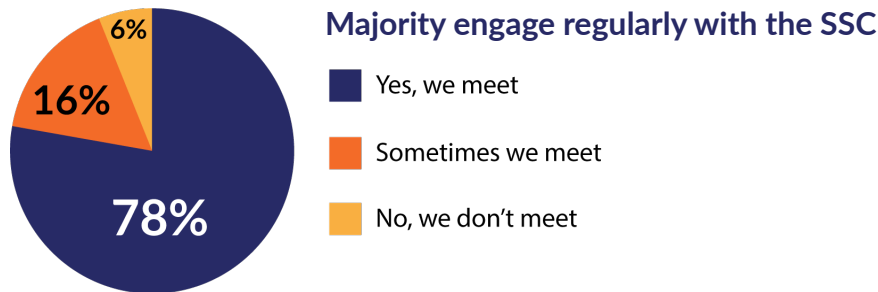
We recently asked you how things are going with our Deciding Together approach, where you and your support and service coordinator (SSC) work as a team to plan the best support for your child. Here's what you told us and what we're doing to make things even better.

## The majority of you said **Deciding Together** is helping your family develop and achieve your goals!

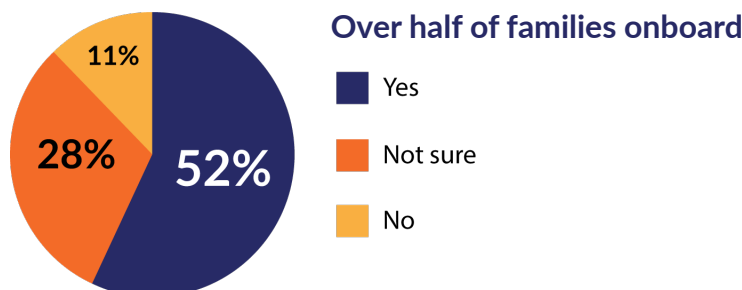
**1. Are your ideas included in service planning?** Most of you—82%—feel your ideas are always included, which is fantastic! Some said it's only "sometimes" (12%) or "no" (6%). We want everyone to feel their voice is heard.



**2. Are the supports and services meeting your family's goals?** Most of you—78%—say you meet with the SSC to talk about how things are changing and if things are getting better. That's great! 16% of you said you "sometimes" meet with the SSC to talk about things, and 6% said you don't meet with the SSC to talk about progress.

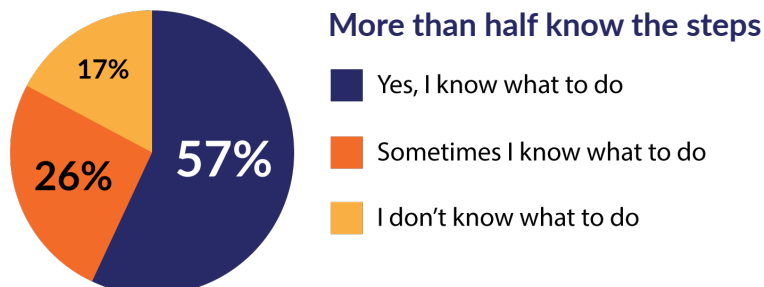


**3. Do you use the **Deciding Together** approach?** Over half of you (52%) said "yes," which is good news. However, 28% aren't sure if they're using it, and some (11%) said they don't use it at all. We want to make sure everyone knows how **Deciding Together** works because it's all about teamwork.



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4. **What if you don't agree with a decision?** More than half (57%) of you know what to do if you disagree with a decision. We also see that 26% may sometimes know, and 17% aren't sure at all. We want everyone to know what to do if there is a disagreement.



### Your feedback in action

Many of you love working together and told us, “We brainstorm together, we listen to each other, we come up with a plan together.” It’s great to hear about the teamwork that is helping families get supports and services. We also heard from some families who said, “I have never heard of it” or “we don’t use it” or “it’s just a form to be signed.”

### Steps we're taking

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the survey and sharing your thoughts and experiences. We will take this information to help develop next steps and will share information with you in upcoming newsletters.

Always feel free to talk with the SSC about any part of your service plan or if you have other questions. We want you to feel confident and informed! ❖

## Learn about support and service coordinators

Support and service coordinators (SSCs) are here to help! These professionals are your family’s main contacts in the CLTS Program. SSCs work with your family to help decide what services and supports will help achieve your family and child’s unique goals. The

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Families can appeal

It is natural for people to have differences of opinion from time to time. If you disagree with a decision about a support or service in the CLTS program, you have the right to formally appeal a decision about supports and services with the Division of Hearings and Appeals. You can request a hearing using the form at [doa.wi.gov/RequestAHearing](https://doa.wi.gov/RequestAHearing) or by letter.

Mail your form or letter to: DHA, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Filing an appeal is not seen as a negative action. It is simply one way to work through differences.

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SSC will meet with you and your family to learn about your child's needs, strengths, and goals. The SSC will also learn about your family's traditions, values, and what the child in your care needs to be most successful.

You will work together as a team to develop a plan for your child that will focus on meeting the needs that you and the team identified. You will use an approach called Deciding Together, which includes your family's perspectives and the best way to support the child in your care and your family.

## How do SSCs help families?

SSCs:

- Help your family decide what the goals are for your child and your family together.
- Work with you to help decide on supports and services that will help meet your child's and family's goals.
- Find providers to work with your child and family.
- Make sure the services and supports are helping. If not, SSCs can help you make changes if necessary.
- Support your family in keeping the child safe and healthy in your home and community.
- Move through your child's and family's life changes and transitions, such as finding a job or transitioning out of the CLTS Program when appropriate.
- Direct you to resources and programs offered through CLTS and other community programs and resources. ❖

## Getting support and information in your language

If English isn't your first language, don't worry! The CLTS Program makes sure you can get all the support and information you need in your language. Here's what you need to know about these services and how they can help you.

## CONNECT TO RESOURCES

### Wisconsin Wayfinder helps connect you to resources

Families often have many questions after learning their child has one or more delays, disabilities, special health care needs, or mental health conditions. Wisconsin has five Children's Resource Centers that are devoted to supporting these families. The centers help both families and providers. Each center has children's resource guides who are trained to help you and your family:

- Connect to community resources.
- Learn about and find supports and services.
- Get answers to questions.

You can call the toll-free phone number 877-WiscWay (877-947-2929) to talk to a live person who will connect you with your children's resource guide.

You can go online at [dhs.wi.gov/wiscway](https://dhs.wi.gov/wiscway) for more information.

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## What services are available?

The CLTS Program has a plan to help families who speak different languages. This plan includes:

- Identifying families who want help with English.
- Offering translation and interpretation services at no cost.
- Training staff to communicate effectively in different languages.

This means everything about the program can be explained in a way you understand, so you can make the best choices for your family.

## Why is this important?

You have the right to understand everything about the services your child gets. Getting support and information in your language means you can be fully involved and make sure the services are right for your family.

## How can you get these services and what should you do next?

Just let your provider or your local county human services department know that you want language help. They're ready to support you.

If you want or need help in your language, talk to your provider. They will help you get what you prefer.

## Remember

You have the right to get help in your language. This helps you understand the CLTS Program, so you can take good care of your family. We want to make sure you get all the help you need. Talk with the SSC if you have questions or need help.

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## Family spotlight: Drake's adventures

We're excited to share a heartfelt thank you from Drake's family. They've found support, from horse therapy to a YMCA membership, and even outdoor equipment. A recent highlight was using Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) funding for a Milwaukee Public Museum pass, where Drake's favorite exhibit was the butterflies!

These supports and services help Drake use his wheelchair more independently and participate fully in community life. His family's story highlights the meaningful impact the CLTS Program can have, offering more than just support—it fosters inclusion and joy.

Thank you to Drake and his family for letting us be a part of their journey. If you have a story to share, please reach out—we love to hear how the CLTS Program is making a difference! ❖



## Summer Family Fun Ideas

Ahh, summer: School is out and the days are longer. It's a great time of year to get together with family and friends and have some fun. Here are some activities to try with your family:

- **Turn your yard into a water park**—Who says you have to go to a pool or water park to stay cool in the summer? Make your own water park using a garden hose, a sprinkler, a kiddie pool, squirt guns, or even buckets or jugs of water. Try adding some bubbles for extra fun!
- **Get messy outside with finger paint**—Finger painting is great for building muscles in the child's arms, hands, and fingers. Do it outside and there is less clean up after the child creates some new artwork for the fridge. Or help them find rocks of different sizes and shapes to paint. They can even paint the driveway!
- **Pack a picnic**—Grab your family's favorite snacks and some cold drinks and head to the nearest park or lake for a picnic. Don't forget to take some pictures to remember the good time you had!



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- **Look for shapes in the clouds**—Find a grassy area to lie down and look for shapes in the clouds. Ask the child to use their imagination when searching and then describe what they see (maybe animals, faces, cars, buildings—there are no wrong answers). It is fun to trace the clouds in the sky too!

Some families find the wide-open days of summer are a nice change from the school year. Others find it helpful if they make a daily schedule for the child. This can help them know what to expect each day. You can use pictures or words to show what needs to be done and what you have planned that day. Below is an example of a daily schedule; you can make your own with the activities that fit your family. ❖

## Today's Schedule

Morning	Afternoon	Night
 Eat breakfast	 Eat lunch	 Eat dinner
 Get dressed	 Nap	 Bath time
 Brush teeth	 Arts and crafts	 Brush teeth
 Play outside	 Play inside	 Read
 Grocery shopping	 Pick up toys	 Bedtime

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Sign up to receive the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the CLTS Program.

1. Go to [dhs.wi.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm).
2. Scroll down to the **Children's Long-Term Care Subscription List Topics** section.
3. Select **CLTS Information for Families and Participants**.

Don't forget to tell your family and friends in the program to sign up as well!

Previous issues of All in for Kids: CLTS Program: [dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids24](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids24).

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## We want 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 CLTS Program.
- An example of how the CLTS 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 [dhsclts@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsclts@wisconsin.gov) with “All in for Kids” in the subject line. You can also send ideas for stories you would like to read in the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you! ❖

## Helpful resources for families

### Ticks in Wisconsin

Ticks are found in many areas throughout Wisconsin in the spring, summer, and early fall. They can spread diseases to people and animals by biting them. Remember that when family members, including pets, spend time outside:

- Do daily tick checks.
- Shower or bathe within two hours after being outdoors.
- Use insect repellent.
- Wear long sleeves and pants.

Other tick bite prevention tips can be found at [dhs.wi.gov/tick/bite-prevention.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/tick/bite-prevention.htm). ❖

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

The CLTS Program makes Medicaid funding available to support children with substantial limitations due to developmental, physical, or severe emotional disabilities who are living at home or in the community. Funding may be used to support a range of services based on an assessment of the child's and family's specific needs and identified goals or outcomes. For more information, visit [dhs.wi.gov/children/index.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/children/index.htm).

Para leer este boletín en español, visite [dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids24](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids24).

Xav nyeem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas [dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids24](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids24).

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