



FAMILIES ARE THE FOUNDATION  
OF WISCONSIN'S BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM



BIRTH TO 3



# BIRTH TO 3

## **Guiding Principles:**

(Developed by the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council)

- Children's optimal development depends on their being viewed first as children and second as children with a problem or disability.
- Children's greatest resource is their family.
- Parents are partners in activity that serves their children.
- Just as children are best supported within the context of 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.

## Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Families Are The Foundation .....                   | 1  |
| Partnerships Are The Building Blocks .....          | 2  |
| Identification and Referral .....                   | 3  |
| Evaluation .....                                    | 4  |
| Criteria For Eligibility .....                      | 5  |
| Ongoing Assessment .....                            | 6  |
| Natural Environments .....                          | 7  |
| The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) ..... | 9  |
| Transition .....                                    | 13 |
| How The Law Works For You .....                     | 15 |
| Where To Find More Information .....                | 19 |
| Acknowledgments .....                               | 20 |



*This symbol will draw your attention to information from Wisconsin regulations that define the early intervention program. For more complete information, visit the WI Birth to 3 Program website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/birthto3/>.*

## Families are the Foundation

### **In Brief:**

*Early intervention is key to your child's development.*

*The county in which you reside is responsible for providing Birth to 3 program services.*

*The Birth to 3 Program will develop with you an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) to address your child's and family's outcome(s).*

The first three years are the most important building blocks of your child's future. This is the time when development is most rapid. It is the time that young children begin to notice and explore their world. It is the time when a great amount of learning takes place.

Every family wants their child to grow and learn to their fullest potential. Some children who have developmental delays or disabilities and their families may want support in understanding their child's unique development. One way this support is provided is through early intervention. The Wisconsin early intervention program is known as the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program.

No matter where you live in Wisconsin, the county in which you reside is responsible for providing Birth to 3 Program services for eligible children and their families. Your county Birth to 3 Program early interventionists will work in partnership with you to identify outcomes for your child and family which will support your child's ability to grow, learn and communicate. They will give you the information and assistance you need so you can support your child's development. A goal of the Birth to 3 Program is to enhance the abilities of your child and family to fully participate in your community.

The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), is both a plan and a process. The plan is a written document describing the outcomes for your child and family and the supports you and your child will



be receiving to meet the needs and priorities you have identified. The process includes specific steps both you and the Birth to 3 early interventionists will move through as you plan for and obtain services to meet your child's and your family's needs. This process is designed to be sensitive to your family's beliefs and values as well as your religious, cultural, ethnic and racial background.

## Partnerships are the Building Blocks

### In Brief:

*A service coordinator will support you while your child is in the Birth to 3 Program.*

*You are considered an important member on the IFSP team because you know your child and family best.*

*All decisions will be developed in a collaborative manner with your full participation.*

A service coordinator will provide you with information about the Birth to 3 Program. This person will also assist your family through the initial steps in the early intervention process and remain involved with your family throughout your participation in the Birth to 3 Program.

The first meetings with your service coordinator are an opportunity for you to share information about your experiences with your child and communicate any concerns that you may have. The service coordinator will arrange for your child's evaluation and any additional assessment necessary. You will also be able to share important information about your daily routines and activities and how your early interventionist might assist you and your child in making those go more smoothly. After these steps are completed, you and the early interventionists will have additional information about your child's strengths and needs and your family's concerns and priorities.

The next step will be for you to meet with your service coordinator and other early intervention service providers to identify the outcomes you hope your child and family will achieve. Then you and your team will develop a plan (IFSP) for strategies, supports and services needed to achieve those outcomes. The service coordinator will be knowledgeable about early intervention services, community resources and potential funding sources. Your service coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the variety of early intervention and other services identified on the IFSP. He or she will help you learn about community resources and will work with you to obtain appropriate services.

You contribute in the decision making; a partnership will develop among you and the other members of your team. From the moment of referral through the planning of your child's and family's service plan, all decisions will be developed in a collaborative manner with your full participation.



*“Evaluations are like a road map to where Brandon is going and from where he has been.”*

*“As a professional, I want the family to feel at ease and not worry about every moment in the evaluation. I want them to know that you cannot pass and fail — it is part of a continuum.”*

## Identification and Referral

### In Brief:

*Each Wisconsin county has a referral network that is dedicated to helping you, your child and your family.*



Each county has established a referral network, which helps find children with developmental concerns. As a parent, you are a part of the referral network. It is often parents or family members who identify concerns about their child’s development.

Other members of the referral network include doctors, nurses, hospitals, clinics, schools, early childhood programs, family child care, child care centers, and other organizations or agencies who come into contact with young children. If you or another member of the referral network are concerned about your child’s development, a referral would be made to the county Birth to 3 Program.

When children are referred to a Birth to 3 Program, a decision is made whether to conduct a screening or to begin the early intervention evaluation process. A screening is a brief questionnaire which helps determine if an evaluation is needed. An evaluation will be conducted when there is a clear concern about a child’s development or if the referral source specifically requests an evaluation be completed. The service coordinator will bring together an Early Intervention (EI) team.



*Each county administrative agency has a comprehensive child find system to ensure that all children who may be eligible for the Birth to 3 Program are identified and referred to determine eligibility for the Birth to 3 Program. The system includes public awareness activities.*

## Evaluation

### In Brief:

*An EI team will gather information on all areas of your child's development.*

*Your observations are key to identifying your child's strengths and needs.*

*An EI team will meet with you to determine your child's eligibility.*

The EI team consists of you, the service coordinator, and at least two professionals knowledgeable about your child's suspected developmental areas of need. Your child's growth and development is ever changing and evolving, the evaluation will only measure your child's abilities at a particular point in time. During the evaluation process, you and the other team members will assess your child's strengths, abilities and needs in each of the areas of his or her development.

The EI team will gather information on all areas of your child's development to determine whether your child is eligible for the Birth to 3 Program. This includes how your child:

- **learns** (cognitive development);
- **moves, sees and hears** (physical/motor development);
- **communicates and understands other's communication** (speech, language and communication development);
- **responds to and develops relationships with other people** (social and emotional development); and
- **eats, dresses and cares for daily living needs** (adaptive behavior and self-help development).

Your observations and knowledge are key in identifying your child's strengths and needs. For example, you may find your child demonstrates skills or different abilities with you and other family members or friends than they exhibit during the evaluation process. Your knowledge about your child's medical and health history and general development is important information in helping to determine if your child is eligible for the Birth to 3 Program.



*The evaluation takes place in your child's natural environment, which may include your home or a child care setting or other places where you and your family spend time. All evaluation and assessment results will be shared with you. Evaluations are completed, in your child's native language and, if appropriate, include the use of interpreters or translators.*



## Criteria for Eligibility

### In Brief:

*You will be part of the process in determining your child's eligibility.*

*If your child is not eligible, the EI team can rescreen your child within six months and share other resources with you.*

*If your child is eligible for the Birth to 3 Program, additional assessments will be completed.*

Following the evaluation, the EI team – this includes you as well as the other team members – will meet to review the evaluation results. You and other team members will then develop an EI team report, which includes the evaluation



results and the team's determination of whether your child is eligible for the Birth to 3 Program. There are a few pathways to meet eligibility requirements for the Birth to 3 Program. They include: a developmental delay of at least 25% in one area of development, a physician-diagnosed condition with a high probability of developmental delay, or atypical (unusual) development that adversely affects your child's overall development.

If the EI team determines that your child is not eligible, the EI team may offer to rescreen your child within six months. The service coordinator will have suggestions or information about other resources to share with you. The service coordinator will also assist you in locating and gaining access to community services you may find helpful to your child and your family. This will all be documented in the EI team report.

*“This entire process has been a great one! My son has definitely benefited working in your program!”*



*If the evaluation shows that your child is eligible for services, the next step is to identify exactly what his or her needs are and how to best meet those needs and develop the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).*



## Ongoing Assessment

### In Brief:

*Over time, we may gather additional information, pertaining to your child's development.*

*We recognize and value your privacy, so you determine how much information you wish to share.*

Additional information may be gathered as part of the evaluation and assessment process to better understand your child's development, daily routines, likes and dislikes. Using a family-directed assessment process, you will be asked about your family's strengths, resources, concerns and priorities related to supporting your child's development. The information gathered will help develop and support the IFSP outcomes. This assessment is voluntary for you.

Some families prefer to share information through informal conversations, while other families find it helpful to complete checklists, questionnaires and other more formal assessment tools. You may choose to complete these items on your own time or with one of the other team members. It is important to remember that you determine how much and to whom information will be shared.

We recognize and value each family's unique and individual way of supporting their child's participation in family activities and routines, as well as community life. Each family has friends and family who provide natural support. Examples of natural supports can be identified through comments, such as: "we support each other," "my neighbor is just like a Grandma to my baby," "my mother is available to babysit," "my husband's co-workers are so kind to us," or "my friends stop by or call me." Some examples of priorities or concerns families have identified include: "my husband wants to be involved but he can only meet on the weekends," or "I'm most concerned about my son being able to go to a birthday party and play with his friends."

*"Assessment just looks at one moment in a child's life and helps you get a sense of what the child can do and needs encouragement and support with."*



*Assessment is ongoing and allows the provider working with your family to continue noting the progress. Planning together with you during each home visit will help design strategies you will continue between visits and define activities you will engage in during the next visit.*

## Natural Environments

### In Brief:

*Learning within the child's natural context of home and community will keep your child motivated and engaged.*

*It is important that your child develops new skills in the settings where he or she will use them.*

*The team will help you to determine how the Birth to 3 Program can support your child's development within your family's lifestyle and activity preferences.*



Learning within natural environments includes use of your family's everyday activity settings, your child's interests and your own responsiveness to your child. Family activities provide many opportunities for your child to practice new skills. Your child's interests are used so your child will be motivated and engaged, which in turn provides more practice and learning opportunities. The Birth to 3 Program helps you understand what you can do to support your child's learning as a part of your family activities.

The team discusses the places that your child and family currently spend time. For example, your child may be at a child care provider during the day, visiting the library, shopping with you at the grocery store, going to the beach or at home with a parent or other caregiver. For each child, the natural environment may be a different setting. It is important that your child develops new skills in the settings where he or she will use them. It is also helpful to your child's development to learn from other children.

Birth to 3 Program services are provided in natural environments, unless there is a reason your child will not be able to achieve the outcomes the team has identified in those settings. These exceptions will be rare, and the goal is to find ways to provide intervention in the natural environment.

It will be important for the IFSP team to consider meeting your child's outcomes within the context of your family's typical routines. The team will help you to determine how Birth to 3 Program can support your child's development within your family's lifestyle and activity preferences.

**Providing Birth to 3 Program services in natural environments means:**

- Providing your child with opportunities to develop relationships, learn (acquire knowledge and skills) and get his/her needs met during everyday activities and routines;
- Assisting your family with connections to other families who are natural sources of support, such as friends, neighbors, church, synagogue or mosque members;
- Building upon your child's and family's strengths and capacities to promote your child's development and increase your confidence and competence in meeting your child's needs;
- Helping you to connect with other families based on your values and interests;
- Joining you in any of the places your family and child usually spend your time so your child can participate and learn in those settings; and
- Exploring opportunities for your child to learn with children without developmental delays or disabilities and to have friendships.



*“This is Graham’s community. We want him to be part of it and for people who know who he is. Early intervention services have brought Graham more into community life — at his preschool, at the YMCA and at home, 24 hours a day.*

*He is learning to participate in typical activities, doing things on his own, and making his own mistakes.”*

## The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

### In Brief:

*The IFSP is a collaborative partnership between you and the early intervention professionals and is the framework for your family's involvement with the Birth to 3 Program.*

*Your family's routine, values and priorities will be used to guide your IFSP.*

*The IFSP is designed to identify outcomes most important to your family and the strategies, resources, supports, and services necessary to help reach them.*

*Your child and family will receive only those services to which you consent.*

*"In my meetings with staff, I feel I was allowed to be an active member of the team and not a listener."*



After collecting and sharing information from the evaluation and assessment, you and the other members of the team will be ready to develop a plan for your child and family. The IFSP represents a collaborative partnership between you and the early intervention professionals. It is the framework for your family's involvement with the Birth to 3 Program.

The team that develops the IFSP includes you and other family members that you request, your service coordinator, at least one of the professionals who took part in the evaluation and assessment of your child, at least one of the professionals who has expertise in child development, and other professionals who may provide services. You may also bring an advocate or friend to the IFSP meeting to assist you in communicating your concerns and needs. Throughout your involvement in the Birth to 3 Program, you remain an important member on the IFSP team because you know your child and family best.

Information gathered from your family and other team members through the evaluation and assessment process is used to develop the IFSP. The IFSP team will consider:

- Your family's daily activities and routines;
- Your family's priorities, values, suggestions and ideas; and
- Community resources available to support your family.

The plan is designed to identify outcomes most important to your family and the strategies, resources, supports and services necessary to help reach them. The team will identify opportunities to help you promote your child's development and participation within everyday activities and routines. The team will discuss how the Birth to 3 Program could support your family, as well as other community resources available for support. The IFSP will identify the team member(s) best suited to meet your child's and family's outcomes and the location and frequency of visits. These decisions result from the discussion of options that are most appropriate for your child and family. As a member of the team, parent participation in this discussion is important and necessary to this process.

**Everything the Birth to 3 Program decides is written into the IFSP so everyone knows what is supposed to happen and how we will work together to complete the individual outcomes.**

What services, resources and supports might be available?

- All families and children are supported by a full team of early interventionist professionals.
- Individualized outcomes are developed for each child to address child development and family priorities identified during team assessments and discussions with parents.
- Services, resources and supports are provided by the early interventionist with expertise that best matches the individualized outcomes.
- Care is taken to develop intervention strategies that build upon the child's interests and the activities in which the family already participates.

*“There is a great feeling when different professionals and my family members come together to support my child.”*



- To meet the outcomes you identified, early intervention services may include: service coordination; assistive technology; audiology and speech-language pathology; family training, counseling and home visits; health services (to enable the child to benefit from other early intervention services); medical services (for diagnostic and evaluation purposes); nursing services; nutrition services; occupational therapy; physical therapy; psychological services; social work services; sign language and cued language; special instruction; transportation; and vision services.

The IFSP meeting will be scheduled within 45 days of the date your child was referred to the Birth to 3 Program. The meeting will be at a time and place that is convenient for your family. Your IFSP must be reviewed at least every six months; however, you may request an update of the IFSP at any time. Such requests often occur when your child's or family's needs change, outcomes have been achieved, or new outcomes are identified.

Every IFSP must contain the following:

- Name of your service coordinator;
- Information about your child's present level of development;
- Summaries of evaluation and assessment reports;
- Your family's priorities and concerns;
- Outcomes expected to be achieved for your child and family;
- Early intervention services and other supports necessary to achieve those outcomes;
- Dates that services will begin and how long they will continue.

- How often (monthly, 2 days per month, 1 day a week, etc.) and the length of time (1/2 hour, one hour, etc.) services will be provided;
- Who will provide a service and the strategies or methods they will use;
- The setting(s) or location(s) in which early intervention services will be provided;
- If the setting is not a natural environment, the reason(s) why the child could not make progress on the outcomes in a natural setting (see page 7 for more details);
- Payment arrangements (funding sources and parental cost share), if any;
- Other needed services, which are not Birth to 3 Program services; and
- Transition Plan, if appropriate (see page 13 for more information).



As a collaborative partnership between you and the early intervention professionals, the IFSP will summarize the decisions made to support your child’s development. During the process of developing or updating the IFSP, you will be provided information to assure you are fully informed about how the Birth to 3 Program will be supporting you. You must sign the IFSP, providing written consent, before it is implemented. Your child and family will receive only those services to which you consent.

You will receive a completed copy of the IFSP. Any future changes to the IFSP must be discussed and approved by you and the IFSP team before any changes may occur. Your service coordinator will discuss with you the county’s policy on “parental cost share” and provide you with information regarding any possible costs associated with the provision of services on the IFSP.



*The IFSP meeting will be scheduled within 45 days of evaluation, and your IFSP must be reviewed at least every six months.*

## Transition

### In Brief:

*If, for any reason, your child no longer needs the Birth to 3 Program, your EI team will discuss steps to ensure a smooth transition.*

*If your child does stay in the program until age 3 and needs further support, your EI team will make referrals and suggestions for future action.*

*Whatever changes in services and programs you and your child experience, planning and thoughtful preparation make most transitions smooth and successful.*



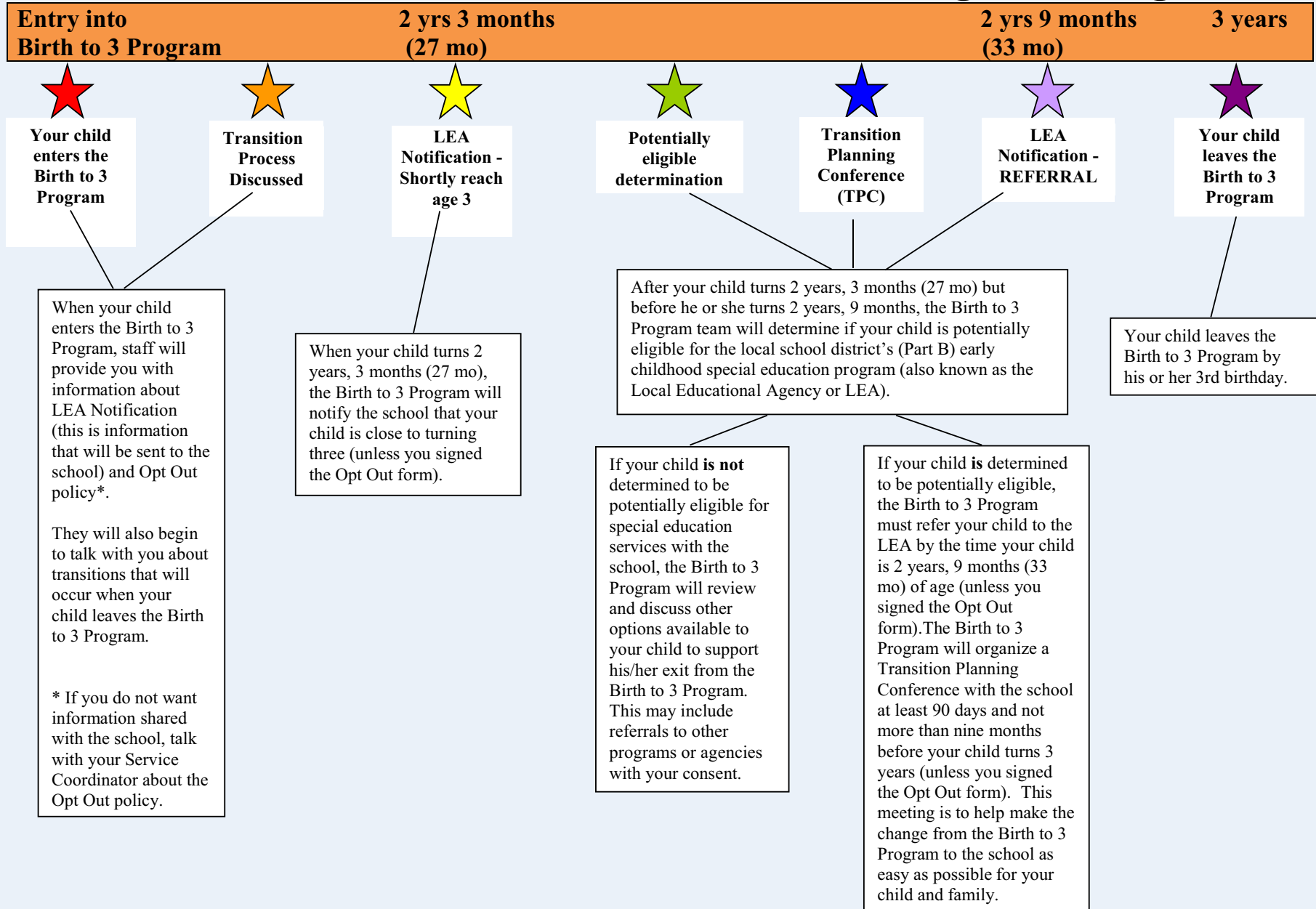
Once your child is in the Birth to 3 Program your family may experience transitions that may include moving, an extended hospital stay or your child may no longer need early intervention services. To support your child and family through these transitions, your EI team will discuss steps to help make the process smooth for you and your child and document it on the IFSP. Perhaps talking with other parents may help you to anticipate issues and to make decisions regarding transition planning.

Many children receive Birth to 3 Program services until the child turns three years old – when the Birth to 3 Program ends. Before your child's third birthday, you and your EI team will be discussing transitioning out of the Birth to 3 Program. Once your child turns three, there are other supports that may be available in your community. One of these supports may be the local school's early childhood special education services (referred to as the Local Educational Agency or LEA) for children aged three to six. For your child to be able to attend the early childhood special education program, the school needs to determine if your child is eligible. If you do not want your child's limited contact information (child's name, date of birth, and parent contact information) shared with the school through the LEA notification and referral processes described, ask your Service Coordinator for more information on the Opt Out policy.

Whatever changes in services and programs you and your child experience, planning and thoughtful preparation make most transitions smooth and successful.



# Transition of Children in the Birth to 3 Program at Age 3



## How the Law Works for You

### In Brief:

*Legally, the Birth to 3 Program must follow specific procedures and ensure that the IFSP is developed and implemented in a voluntary, non-discriminatory manner, respecting your views and preferences about the services your child and family receive.*

In 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-457, which added Part H (now called Part C) to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), <http://www.copyright.gov/legislation/pl108-446.html>. Part C is a national program established to assist each state in establishing a statewide system of services for children with developmental delays from birth to three years of age, and their families.

In Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services is the lead agency for the Birth to 3 Program and has developed regulations that will guide the implementation of Wisconsin's Birth to 3 Program. These regulations are called Chapter DHS 90, Wisconsin Administrative Code, found at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/rsb/code/dhs/dhs090.pdf> Birth to 3 Programs are provided by and available in every county in Wisconsin.

Built into the Birth to 3 Program, through Part C and state regulations, are specific rights and procedural safeguards for children and families.

These are your legal assurances that the Birth to 3 Program will follow specific procedures and that the IFSP will be developed and implemented in a voluntary, non-discriminatory manner, respecting your views and preferences about the services your child and family receive. The following are highlights from the Procedural Safeguards that define your rights in the early intervention process.

### Informed Consent

This is the most basic of your family's rights. It ensures that you understand all information related to early intervention activities and that you voluntarily give your written consent before any service (evaluation or ongoing service) begins. Before you sign the consent form, you will be provided information to assure you are fully informed about the decisions made by the Birth to 3 Program (called written prior notice). When a service is recommended, the purpose, manner in which it will be provided, the cost to you (if any) and possible consequences of not consenting should be explained to you. Your written consent for your child's evaluation or assessment will continue in effect until revoked by you or until your child is no longer receiving early intervention services.

### Written Prior Notice

Information is provided to you to help you make informed decisions and understand what the Birth to 3 Program is recommending for your child. You must be given written prior notice before any decisions are acted upon. Written prior notice must be provided in your family's language.

### Participation in the Evaluation, Development of the IFSP

You must be involved and consulted in the evaluation and assessment process. You will be invited to participate in the EI team meetings. During this meeting the evaluation and assessment information is reviewed, and your child's eligibility for the Birth to 3



Program is determined.

If your child is eligible for the Birth to 3 Program, you will receive a letter (IFSP invitation) that proposes a date, time and place for the IFSP meeting. The meeting occurs in a location and at a time convenient to you; many families choose to hold the meeting in their home. The service coordinator will provide the invitation to all participants early enough in advance to allow all to make needed arrangements to attend. You may bring other family members, friends or advisors to the IFSP meeting. You will be asked to sign the IFSP to indicate consent.

### **Review and Confidentiality of Records**

When you ask to review your child's early intervention records, the records will be made available within 10 days from your request. If you ask for a copy of a record, one copy will be supplied free of charge.

The county agency is responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of your child's early intervention record. Only county agency or provider agency employees who have a legitimate need for information from your child's record will have access to it. Confidential information will not be disclosed to any other agency or individual without your written consent, except for the required LEA Notification process (see Transition section).

### **Resolving Concerns, Exercising Options**

There may be a time when you believe that early intervention requirements are not being met or when you disagree with decisions made about your child's early intervention program. If this happens, it is important that you share your concerns with your service coordinator, appropriate early intervention professionals who are members of your team, or the county Birth to 3 coordinator/administrator (this is referred to as negotiation). If you are unable to resolve your concerns, the following options are available.

### **Disputes About Your Child's Early Intervention Services**

If there is an occasion when you disagree with the county Birth to 3 Program- about your child's early intervention services, this is called a dispute. There may be disputes about decisions made regarding evaluation for eligibility, eligibility determination, assessment results, services or payment of services for your child. There are options available to you to try to find a resolution to the dispute.

### **Mediation**

Mediation is a process in which a neutral and impartial third party, a mediator, helps people resolve disputes in a private setting. The mediator focuses discussions on the disputes and circumstances that resulted in the disagreement between the parents and the county Birth to 3 Program. The mediator does not impose a decision, but rather helps the parties identify issues, generate options, and create their own solutions.

Either a parent or a county administrative agency, or both, may request mediation by sending a written request to the Birth to 3 Mediation System using a Request for Mediation form found at

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm>). The request should include a brief description of the dispute and identify both the family and the county Birth to 3 Program. If an agreement is reached, the agreement is put into written form and signed by the parties. The implementation of the agreement is the responsibility of both parties. The results of mediation cannot be used in the due process hearing process without the consent of both parties.

Mediation does not delay or deny your right for a due process hearing. The cost of mediation is covered by the state Birth to 3 Program.



**Due Process Hearing**

You may request a Due Process Hearing, a formal process for settling disputes. The due process hearing takes place before an impartial decision-maker to resolve a dispute between you and the county agency or service provider.

You should send a Request for Due Process Hearing using the form found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/hearings.htm> to the Birth to 3 program coordinator at the Department of Health Services (DHS). Alternatively, you may write a letter requesting a Due Process Hearing. The DHS will have an impartial decision-maker appointed. The Due Process Hearing will be completed and a decision made within 30 days of your request.

The hearing will take place at a time and place agreeable to both parties and is reasonably convenient for the parents involved. You, the county and any witnesses will present evidence. You are entitled to have an attorney and advisors present. The hearing is provided at no cost to you, except for any professionals that you hire to represent you. If you are not happy with the decision from the Due Process Hearing, you may bring a civil action in State or Federal Court.

**IDEA State Complaint**

If you believe that the local or state Birth to 3 Program has violated a federal or state law, you may file a written complaint with the DHS (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/complaints.htm>). A complaint may be made with respect to any matter relating to the evaluation, eligibility or provision of appropriate early intervention services to the child and the

child's family, as well as any other allegation that an entity has violated Part C of IDEA (the law governing Birth to 3 Programs).

Concerns may be directed to DHS via fax, mail or email. See contact information on page 19 or <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/birthto3/contacts/statecontacts.htm>. Please include a statement describing the complaint and the facts upon which the complaint is based. After receiving your complaint, a DHS Birth to 3 Program staff member will investigate it. You will be notified within 60 days about the results of the investigation and what action, if any, will be taken.

**During the Dispute Resolution Process:**

- Services will be provided during the dispute resolution process, if you agree. Your child will continue to receive the services provided before the dispute was filed. If the dispute involves initial services, your child will receive any services that are not in dispute.
- Confidentiality will be maintained during the resolution process. Information will not be disclosed without your written consent. Only people who have a legitimate need for information related to your dispute will have access to information related to your child.

**Where to Find More Information:  
Part C Program Under IDEA**

[www.ectacenter.org](http://www.ectacenter.org)



Part C is the federal law under IDEA that governs the Birth to 3 Program.

**Department of Health Services (DHS)**

1 W. Wilson St.  
P.O. Box 7851  
Madison, WI 53707

608-267-3270  
TTY: 888-241-9432

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/birthto3/>



DHS is the State Department responsible for monitoring and supporting the county level Birth to 3 Programs in Wisconsin.

**Wisconsin First Step**

1-800-642-STEP (Voice/TDD)

[www.mch-hotlines.org](http://www.mch-hotlines.org)



First Step is an information and referral service that assists Wisconsin families who have children with special needs. First Step can help locate a variety of services and resources for children and families, including: early intervention services, financial assistance, support groups, child care/respite, home health care, educational and therapy providers, medical resources, evaluation, advocacy, transportation, assistive technology devices and services.



## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the many Wisconsin parents and early intervention professionals who contributed to the development of the first version of this parent guidebook.

This revision has also benefited greatly from the valuable input of a diverse group of reviewers. It is our continuing hope that throughout our children's lives, we will not forget to keep dreaming, sharing our dreams, and making them real.

This guidebook provides an overview of the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program. For additional copies of this guidebook go to <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/birthto3/forms/index.asp>



# BIRTH TO 3



Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

1 W. Wilson St. P.O. Box 7851  
Madison, WI 53707

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/birthto3/>

