

All in for Kids

A Birth to 3 Program Family Newsletter

All in for Kids is a newsletter created 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.



Planning for Transitions

Kids and families go through many transitions, or changes, in life. Some transitions are big, and some are small. While all kids will transition out of the Birth to 3 Program, kids may also have different transitions in their life. Examples of transitions kids and families go through:

- Moving to a new city or house
- Changing childcare
- Losing someone through death
- Divorce of parents
- Fires or other disasters
- Changing jobs

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- Adding a new baby in the house
- Even changing what room someone sleeps in

Sometimes it's helpful to have support during these times of change.

The Birth to 3 Program can support you and your family through transitions and find ways to help with changes. Talk to the service coordinator about your family's needs or concerns and ideas you may have for what you want to do and how to get there. Discuss how you think a transition will affect the child in your care. What does your child need to be successful through it?

Birth to 3 Program team members can help start a transition plan on the IFSP. The transition plan can show the best ways to support you and your family through the transition. The plan could include:

- A change to the services your family gets.
- New services for your family.
- Referrals to other services.
- Involvement of others who can support you and your family during the transition in your life.

Not all transitions need a transition plan. You decide if you would like support in the process or if you have concerns or goals for your child as part of that transition.

For example: Your family might be planning a move to a different part of town. You might decide it would be helpful to have a transition plan. Another family in the same situation might decide not to do a transition plan. That family might receive lots of support from family and friends to conduct the move. That family might have moved before and already have a plan to support their child's transition to a new home.

Transition plans are specific and unique to each family. Your family's transition plan is based on your child's and family's unique needs and circumstances. ❖

REMINDER

The Birth to 3 Program team (which includes your family) works together to create an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). An IFSP is a written plan that guides and supports the efforts to boost the child's development up to age 3. This plan is based on identified needs to help meet the unique goals of your family and the child.

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Transitioning Out of the Birth to 3 Program

Children can participate in the Birth to 3 Program until their third birthday. While some children stay in the program until they turn 3, others leave sooner. The Birth to 3 Program supports every family as their child transitions out of the program.

After the child in your care leaves the Birth to 3 Program, they may or may not need continued supports or services. If they do, those continued supports might come from several places. It could be from family members or friends, through the local school district, or from community or other early childhood programs. Your child may also qualify for supports and services through a program such as the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program. Some children take part in the Birth to 3 Program and the CLTS Program at the same time. These children can continue in the CLTS Program after they leave the Birth to 3 Program.

Transition Planning

Planning for transition out of the Birth to 3 Program can help your family continue to get the supports and services. The Birth to 3 Program team (which includes you, as parents or caregivers) will talk about transitioning out of the program. Think about questions and concerns you want to bring up with the service coordinator. Together the team will create a written plan with next steps you can take when the child in your care leaves the program.

Special Education Services Through the Local School District

If the child in your care is almost 3 years old, they might be eligible for services through the local school district. Birth to 3 Program staff will help you determine if they are eligible. Program staff might use the words "potentially eligible for local education agency (LEA) services." If the Birth to 3 Program determines your child is potentially eligible for LEA and you are interested in these services, they will make a referral. Next, the LEA makes the final decision if your child is in fact, eligible. The child in your care can begin receiving services through the school district at age 3. If they are eligible, they can get services through the school system and do not need to wait until they start 4K or kindergarten.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The CLTS Program provides services for children with developmental, physical, or emotional disabilities. For more information about this program or if you have questions, talk to the Birth to 3 Program service coordinator or go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/family.htm.

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Birth to 3 Program staff can support your family in other ways, too. Birth to 3 Program staff can also help if you do not want your child to receive school district services or if your child is not eligible. You can connect with other agencies or programs (for example, Head Start, a family resource center, or a support group). The team can also help arrange other supports and services, such as private therapy, to support your child's development.

The goal is for the transition process to go smoothly. You can bring up conversations and decisions about transitioning out of the Birth to 3 Program at any time—just ask!❖

Assessment Is an Important Process in the Birth to 3 Program

The Birth to 3 Program supports you in helping the child in your care grow, learn, and develop to their fullest potential. **Assessment** is an important part of the Birth to 3 Program for all children enrolled. It is a process that gathers information about your child's development. This information is used to make decisions about how the Birth to 3 Program can best support the child in your care.

What happens during an assessment?

An assessment tool is used to look at all areas of your child's development, including how they:

- Learn (cognitive development).
- Move, see, and hear (physical/motor development).
- Communicate and understand others' communication (speech and language development).
- Respond to and relate with others (social and emotional development).
- Eat, dress, and care for daily living needs (adaptive development).

Assessment is done by a trained provider, who will:

- Observe—Watch your child's behavior and actions in their everyday environment and routine.
- Explore—Have your child do a task or activity.
- Ask for information—Talk to you to learn about the child in your care.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

For faster delivery, sign up to receive the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the Birth to 3 Program. Go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aboutdhs/alerts.htm and then scroll down and click the "Birth to 3 Program Information for Families" link on the left side.

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How are parents and caregivers involved in assessment?

As the person who knows the child in your care best, you play an important part in assessment. The provider will ask you about your child's growth, movement, behavior, play, and interactions with others. You can share what you know about their abilities, interests, and challenges in everyday activities. For example, maybe you have noticed that your child doesn't respond when you make a noise. The information you give is key to getting a full picture of their development.

The provider will share their observations and assessment results with you. The Birth to 3 Program team includes your family, caregivers, providers, and program staff. This team will talk about what the assessment results mean. The results will be used to help decide what parts of your child's development to work on first and which services may be most useful. Feel free to bring up points you want to talk about and ask questions.

When is assessment done in the Birth to 3 Program?

Assessment is first done at the beginning of your child's participation in the Birth to 3 Program. Assessment is used to determine your child's level of development and their strengths and needs. This information is used to create the IFSP.

After the child in your care begins receiving supports and services, assessments will be completed on an ongoing basis. The assessments check the progress of their development. Information from these ongoing assessments can be used to change the IFSP if needed. Talk to the other members of the Birth to 3 Program team if you have questions or concerns about assessments.

Understanding assessment and your role in it can help when creating and updating the IFSP. Thank you for participating in this important part of the Birth to 3 Program! ❖

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Birth to 3 Program Family Spotlight: Henry's Story

Meet Henry! He started with the Birth to 3 Program when he was about 3 months old.

Henry's mom, Tessa, tells us that Henry received physical therapy through the Birth to 3 Program. The physical therapy has helped them tremendously in learning how to help Henry grow and learn.

Tessa says, "The exercises that Physical Therapy shows us are things we would have had no idea to do, and it has been amazing to watch Henry discover all that he is capable of!" ❖

The Birth to 3 Program Wants Your Family Stories and Photos!

The All in for Kids newsletter is for families, and 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 or an example of how it 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! ❖

Summer Family Fun for Babies and Toddlers

Are you looking for ideas for summer kids' activities outside of the Birth to 3 Program? When you are thinking of ways to keep a young child busy, keep in mind that things do not need to be fancy to be fun. Babies and toddlers learn by playing. Simple, everyday objects are often better than gadgets or complicated toys. Here are some ideas for activities using things you already have around the house:

- **Water swap**—Find two buckets or large bins, a plastic cup, and a sponge. Then head outside and fill one bucket with water. Show your child how to move water from the full bucket to the empty one. Make a game of scooping and pouring with the cup or letting



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the sponge soak and then squeezing it out. Try adding baby shampoo to make bubbles—babies and toddlers will love to make their toys and hands disappear under the foam!

- **“Paint” with water**—Fill a bucket with water, grab a clean paintbrush or rag, and let your child “paint” the front door, sidewalk, or fence. This is a great activity to develop motor skills and coordination, and there is no clean up afterward!
- **Go for a walk**—To a baby or toddler, the world around them is new and interesting. Explore the outdoors on a walk to the park, around the block, or even just around your own yard. Talk about the things you see and hear.

And for a special ending to a hot summer day, have some ice cream or another cold treat!❖

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 to prevent ticks from getting on family members.

Other tick bite prevention tips can be found at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tick/bite-prevention.htm.

Other Resources for Families

Latest information about COVID-19, including information about vaccinations for children, vaccine booster doses, and testing:

- www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html

Everyone 5 years and older needs an updated (bivalent) booster dose to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. Being up to

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date provides the best protection against severe illness associated with COVID-19. Find information about booster doses at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-booster.htm.

Everyone aged **6 months and older** can get a free COVID-19 vaccination from their health care provider, community-based vaccination clinic, local or tribal health department, or pharmacy. Find out how at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm.

Children **2 years and older** can protect against COVID-19 by wearing a mask. Learn more at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/parents.htm.

DHS and CDC recommend knowing the level of COVID-19 in your community and following appropriate guidance, including masking in public places, when levels are high. Find this information at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html.

New to the Birth to 3 Program? Take a look at these resources:

- The Early Intervention booklet helps you understand how early intervention helps your family and child learn and grow together: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-03022.htm
- The Birth to 3 Program Services at a Glance guide explains the supports and services available: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-03011.htm

Previous issues of All in for Kids: Birth to 3 Program newsletters: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/family/index.htm (Scroll down to the Publications & Videos tab at bottom of page.)❖

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All in for Kids 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 www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm.

Para leer este boletín en español, visite www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akidsb-3-2022.htm.

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