

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.



Assessment Is an Important Tool 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 the child's development. This information is used to make decisions about how the Birth to 3 Program can best support the child.

What happens during an assessment?

Assessment looks at all areas of the child's development, including how they:

- Learn (cognitive development).
- Move, see, and hear (physical/motor development).

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- 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 the child's behavior and actions in their everyday environment and routine.
- **Explore**—Have the child do a task or activity.
- **Ask for information**—Talk to parents or caregivers to learn about the child.

How are parents and caregivers involved in assessment?

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

The provider will share their observations and assessment results with you. The Birth to 3 Program team, which includes your family, caregivers, providers, and program staff, will talk about what these results mean. The results will be used to help decide what parts of the 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 the child's participation in the Birth to 3 Program. Assessment is used to determine the child's level of development and their strengths and needs. This information can then be used to create the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

After the child begins receiving supports and services, assessment will be done again to check the progress of their development.

WHAT IS AN IFSP?

The Birth to 3 Program team, which includes your family, works together to create the IFSP. The IFSP is a written plan that outlines the actions to boost the child's development. This plan is created specifically for the child and family to help meet your unique goals.

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Information from these ongoing assessments can be used to change the IFSP if needed.

How often assessments are done depends on the child and your family's goals. Talk to the other members of the Birth to 3 Program team if you have questions or concerns about how often assessments are being done.

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!❖

Parent Members Are Needed for the Birth to 3 Program Interagency Coordinating Council

What is the Interagency Coordinating Council?

The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) shares ideas and recommendations for how the Birth to 3 Program can help children with delays and disabilities and their families.

Some council members are parents from different backgrounds who have children with delays or disabilities. Parents are valuable council members who provide information about their experiences and the needs of families. Their ideas help shape Birth to 3 Program practices and policies.

Other council members include advocacy groups, Birth to 3 Program staff, and other county and state agencies.

Join the Interagency Coordinating Council

The ICC is looking for parent members. Members' terms last three years.

The ICC meets four or five times a year. Right now, meetings are held remotely (with attendance online or by phone). Future meetings will be held in person in Madison, Wisconsin, with the option to attend remotely.

If you are interested in becoming a council member, go to the ICC member webpage at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/b3icc/members.htm, then scroll down to the online application link.

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.

Be a Part of an Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting

You can be a part of an ICC meeting even if you are not a member. You can share your thoughts and comments about the Birth to 3 Program with the ICC at the meeting.

To see the dates and agendas of upcoming meetings, visit the ICC meetings webpage at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/b3icc/meetings.htm. For the link to the next online meeting or for more information about the council, go to the ICC webpage at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/b3icc/index.htm.♦

Spring Family Fun Ideas

Spring is on its way! After you pack away the snow pants, here are some ways you can enjoy the warmer weather with a baby or toddler:

- **Bubble play**—Bubbles are an excellent way to help babies' and toddlers' visual skills and muscle development. Blowing a bubble for a baby encourages them to follow it with their eyes and move their head to see where it goes. Toddlers love to learn how to blow bubbles on their own and have a great time chasing and popping them!
- **Explore nature**—Find different surfaces like sand, gravel, or wood chips and talk about how they feel different. Pick dandelions and name the colors of the flower and the leaves. This is also a great time to tell stories to each other, sing, or play "follow the leader!"
- **Head to the park**—Your local park offers fun things to do for kids of all ages and abilities, from swings and slides to equipment for climbing, jumping, or spinning. Plus there is plenty of space to just run around!♦



SPRING FAMILY FUN

The 2022 Circles of Life Conference

The Circles of Life Conference is a yearly meeting for families with children who have disabilities. Providers and other professionals who support families and children also go to the conference.

At the conference, you can connect with other families, join educational sessions, and learn about new resources and providers.

There are activities for the whole family, including:

- Sessions for teens with disabilities
- Programs for brothers and sisters

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- Respite care for young kids
- Family Fun Night and ice cream social

Conference Details

This year's conference will be held May 12–13, 2022. You can attend either in person or remotely (online).

Attend in Person

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The Holiday Inn is holding a number of rooms for conference attendees who want to stay at the hotel. We recommend making hotel reservations early.

Attend Remotely

You can attend remotely using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. The conference will be live-streamed on May 12–13. It will also be recorded so that you can watch it later. Check the Circles of Life website at www.circlesoflifeconference.com for more information.

Register for the Conference

You can register now for the conference. Instructions are on the Circles of Life website at www.circlesoflifeconference.com.

If you need help paying for the conference, scholarships are available. For more information, talk to the service coordinator or visit the Circles of Life website at www.circlesoflifeconference.com. ♦

Helpful 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

Everyone 5 years of age 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. To learn how, visit:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm

Information about booster doses for fully vaccinated people age 12 and older:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-dose.htm

SPREAD THE WORD

If you know of a child who might be helped by the Birth to 3 Program, spread the word! Tell other parents about the program, pass along this newsletter, or share the website address with them.

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

Parenting tips for stressful times from the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health, including short videos with advice from mental health professionals and parents and flyers in English and Spanish: children.wi.gov/Pages/TrainingsVideos/Parenting.aspx

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 the 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.)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent COVID-19. You can also help stop its spread by:

- Wearing a mask inside public buildings, on public transportation, or at crowded outdoor gatherings.
- Staying home when feeling sick.
- Getting tested if you have symptoms or after close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

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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.

Xav nyem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akidsb-3-2022.htm.

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