

# All in for Kids

## *A Birth to 3 Program Family Newsletter*

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



### **Family Spotlight: Violette's Growing Voice**

Violette's family joined the Columbia County Birth to 3 Program to support her early communication, and her progress is exciting to see. When she started, Violette used mostly gestures and sounds. Over time, she began using more words, expressing herself more clearly, and coming out of her shell.

Columbia County Birth to 3 Program worked closely with the family to help Violette build her vocabulary and make her needs known. Her provider, Sara, helped Violette practice making choices, encouraged her to use more meaningful sounds and words, and showed her family how to support those skills at home.

Violette's mom, Miranda, shared how valuable this support has been:

"The Birth to 3 Program has helped Violette come out of her shell and expand her vocabulary. Sara has helped us understand her gibberish and taught Violette how to make choices and communicate better."

Violette will soon transition out of the Birth to 3 Program when she turns three. Her family feels grateful for the support they've received and proud of the growth she's made. ♦



Violette smiles during a Birth to 3 Program home visit as she practices new ways to communicate.

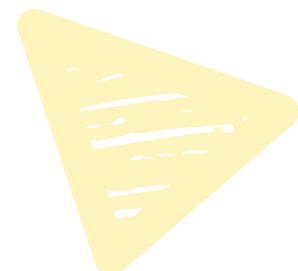


One of Violette's colorful art pieces, another way she expresses herself.

## 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.



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.

Email your family story or photo to [dhsbirthto3@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto: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! ♦



## Staying up to date on vaccines: what families need to know this season

Vaccines play an important role in helping children stay healthy, especially during the fall and winter respiratory virus season. This year, Wisconsin has made it easier for families to get the vaccines they want and need.

In September 2025, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) issued a standing order that allows people to get the COVID-19 vaccine at pharmacies across the state without a prescription. DHS continues to recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 6 months and older, including children and people who are pregnant. These recommendations align with national medical organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

### Keeping vaccine information current

Because vaccine guidance can change, it's important for families to rely on trusted, up-to-date sources. To keep your family's vaccine information up to date, you can:

- Talk with your child's health care provider
- Visit [dhs.wi.gov](http://dhs.wi.gov) for statewide updates
- Ask your SSC for help finding reliable information

### How Medicaid helps cover vaccines

Whether or not your child is enrolled in Medicaid, vaccines remain one of the most effective ways to prevent illness. For families who do use Medicaid, here's what you need to know:

Wisconsin Medicaid continues to cover all vaccines recommended for children, including the COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months and older, at no cost to you.

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## Vaccines matter for all families

For families who are not enrolled in Medicaid, your health care provider or pharmacy can help you understand coverage through private insurance or other programs. If you have questions, your SSC can help connect you with the right resources.

Staying current on vaccines helps protect your child, your family, and your community. Whether you're preparing for school, seasonal viruses, or new recommendations, you don't have to navigate it alone.

### Need more information?

Visit [dhs.wi.gov](https://dhs.wi.gov) or talk to your child's health care provider or SSC for help understanding vaccine recommendations and coverage options. ♦

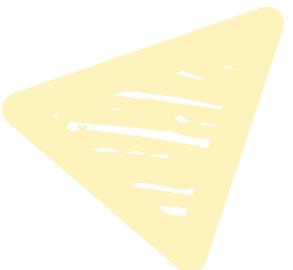
## Birth to 3 Program Family Experience survey: Share your story to help us improve

As families transition out of the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program, we want to hear about your experiences. That's why we send out the Birth to 3 Program Family Experience Survey. It's a chance for you to share how the program has helped your child and family grow, and for us to make improvements that benefit future families.

### What is the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Family Experience survey?

The Family Experience survey is sent to families about one month after they leave the Birth to 3 Program. It's sent by mail and email, making it easy to share your thoughts and feedback. Through the survey, families can tell us how the program helped them:

- Understand their rights
- Communicate their child's needs
- Support their child's development and learning



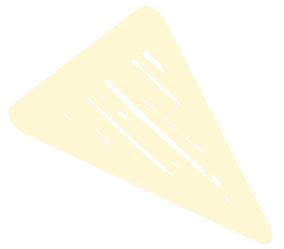
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## What do families say?

Families have shared that the Birth to 3 Program does an excellent job of:

- Listening and respecting family choices
- Building strong, supportive relationships with families
- Providing useful information about supports and services for families
- Discussing what families think is important for them and their child



However, we've also learned that we can do more to help families:

- Understanding their child's rights
- Helping children with their socialization skills or how to get along with others
- Giving families useful information and resources about how to help their child grow and develop
- Connecting families with other services and people who can help

Your feedback will help us improve in these areas. ♦

## Why is this survey important?

We conduct this survey because we are required to gather feedback for federal reporting, which helps fund the Birth to 3 Program. But more importantly, your answers help us find ways to improve the program. We use your input to:

- Create family-friendly materials
- Work with counties to increase families' knowledge of their rights and resources

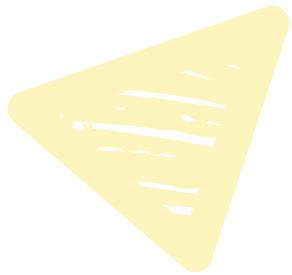
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## How can you help?

To make sure your voice is heard, here's what you can do:

- Ensure your address and email are up to date when transitioning out of the program.
- Complete the Birth to 3 Program Family Experience survey when it is sent to you.



By filling out the survey, you're helping us make sure the Birth to 3 Program continues to provide the best support for children and families across Wisconsin. Thank you for helping us improve and grow! ♦

## Winter fun with babies and toddlers

If you are looking for activities to do with kids, winter in Wisconsin gives you a choice: Do you feel like a cozy indoor activity? Or do you want to get out in the snow? Either way, you will make memories with your child and teach them important new skills at the same time. Here are some ideas for activities to try this winter:

- **Make a paper countdown chain:** This is not just for decoration—hang it in your home and tear off one link each day to count down to an exciting event such as a holiday, a birthday, or a family trip:
  1. Cut paper into strips about 1 inch wide by 5 inches long. Make one strip for each day you want to count down.
  2. Show your child how to make a circle with the first paper strip by bringing the two ends together and gluing or taping them.
  3. To make the next link, put another paper strip through the center of the first paper circle and then glue or tape its ends together.
  4. Keep adding a new link to the last one you made and soon you will have a chain!



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- **Bundle up and enjoy the outdoors:** Winter in Wisconsin is full of chances for outside activities that give your child's motor skills a boost, like:
  - Throwing snowballs.
  - Sledding.
  - Climbing a snowy hill.
  - Making a low ridge out of packed snow and jumping over it together.
  - Putting a face on a snowman.
  - Collecting things like pinecones, acorns, and rocks in a bag or bucket and then sorting them into groups.
- **Snuggle up and read:** Reading is one of the most important activities you can do with your child. It is a great way to relax together after a busy day. It also strengthens your child's language skills and helps get them ready to read on their own someday. Choose some winter-themed books and get your child involved as you read:
  - Ask your child what happened at the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
  - When you're done with the book, try pretending to be different characters and act out the story together.
- **Make time for chats:** Talk about what happened during your day and what will happen tomorrow. Listen carefully to what your child says so they know their thoughts and feelings are important to you. Even if your child cannot answer all your questions yet, they are listening and learning important social-emotional skills. Ask simple questions about your child's day, such:
  - What was the best part of your day?
  - Were there any hard parts about today?
  - How did you feel? ♦

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## Partner highlight: Supporting children with deafblindness through WDBTAP and the Birth to 3 Program

*Partner Highlight is a recurring feature in our newsletter, putting a spotlight on some of the organizations that families might want to know more about.*

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program partners with many organizations to help families receive the support they need. One important partner is the Wisconsin Deafblind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP). WDBTAP supports Birth to 3 Program teams as they work with young children who have combined vision and hearing concerns—also known as deafblindness.

### What does WDBTAP do?

WDBTAP strengthens the Birth to 3 Program by offering:

- Consultation to Birth to 3 Program teams
- A lending library of materials and resources
- Workshops and trainings for families and professionals
- Family engagement opportunities to help caregivers connect, learn, and share experiences

Their goal is to help early intervention teams understand how to best support a child's communication, development, and participation when vision and hearing both play a role. WDBTAP does not provide direct intervention services to children or families.

### How referrals work

Referrals to WDBTAP comes through your county's Birth to 3 Program. Families do not refer themselves directly to WDBTAP.

If you have concerns about your child's vision or hearing:

1. Talk with your service coordinator.
1. Your Birth to 3 Program team can request WDBTAP's support.
1. WDBTAP will then consult with your team to help guide IFSP goals and strategies.

### Learn more

WDBTAP created a short video to help families and professionals understand who they are and how they support early intervention teams:

WDBTAP Introduction Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJvZ4O3bJ5Q>



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The collaboration between you, your Birth to 3 team, and WDBTAP ensures that your child receives support from professionals who have specialized knowledge about deafblindness. ♦

## Important update for Katie Beckett Medicaid: new online renewals and MyACCESS app

Families with children on Katie Beckett Medicaid now have new, convenient ways to manage their benefits, including the ability to renew online, report changes, and use the MyACCESS mobile app.

### Key changes

- **Renew benefits online:** Families can renew their Katie Beckett Medicaid benefits directly online at [access.wi.gov](https://access.wi.gov). No need to mail in forms, unless you want to.
- **Report changes online:** Families can report address and contact information changes online at any time at [access.wi.gov](https://access.wi.gov). No need to contact the Katie Beckett Central Office, unless you want to.
- **MyACCESS app:** For the first time, Katie Beckett Medicaid members can manage benefits on their mobile devices using the official MyACCESS app to view application status, see benefit information, check on upcoming actions you need to take, set reminders, upload documents, and report changes to address and contact information.
- **Benefit Status Tracker:** Families can use the new Benefit Status Tracker through [access.wi.gov](https://access.wi.gov) or MyACCESS for an easy way to see where they are at each step of the application process.

### Support available

For any tech support questions or assistance about [access.wi.gov](https://access.wi.gov) or MyACCESS, members can contact Member Services at 800-362-3002. ♦

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## Helpful resources for families

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Declared 2025 the Year of the Kid and signed a bipartisan pro-kid budget: "This is a win for Wisconsin's kids, families, and communities." The 2025-27 budget does what's best for kids and working families by lowering out-of-pocket costs for child care and more.

View the press release here: [content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3e7d45c](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3e7d45c) ♦

## 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](https://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](https://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](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-03022).

Previous issues of the All in for Kids newsletter: Birth to 3 Program are available online: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2025](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2025). ♦

## 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](https://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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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](https://dhs.wi.gov/children/index.htm).

Para leer este boletín en español, visite [dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2025](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2025). Xav nyem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas [dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2025](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2025).

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