

# 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).



## Supporting your child between visits

Children grow and learn best during everyday moments, at home, at childcare, and during routines they already enjoy. That's why the Birth to 3 Program focuses on helping families support their child's development between visits, not just during them.

One important way the program does this is through home visit notes and joint plans.

### What is a joint plan?

At the end of each Birth to 3 Program home visit, you and your provider work together to create a joint plan. You might also hear it called a home visit note.

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A joint plan:

- Summarizes what happened during the visit
- Connects activities to your child's individualized family service plan (IFSP) goals
- Identifies simple ideas to try before the next visit

## How a joint plan supports your child

A joint plan helps turn the ideas discussed during home visits into everyday learning. Together, you and your provider:

- Pick activities that match your child's interests
- Decide when they fit best into your day
- Adjust ideas so they work in your home or childcare setting

## Why everyday routines matter

Children learn best:

- In places where they feel comfortable, like home or childcare
- With people they know and trust, like parents and caregivers
- During activities they already do every day, such as mealtime, playtime, bath time, or getting dressed

## What happens next?

You should receive a copy of the joint plan at the end of each visit. If you don't, you can ask for one.

Then, at the next visit, you and your provider review the joint plan together and talk about:

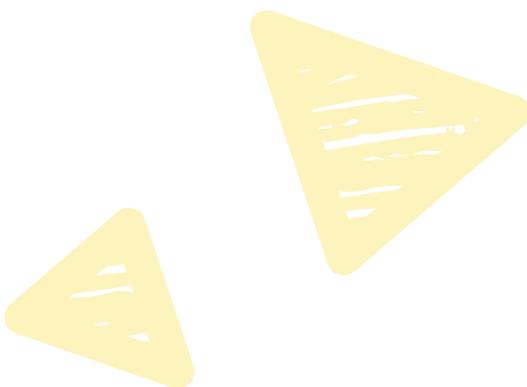
- What worked well
- What didn't work or felt challenging
- What got in the way
- What to try next

## Your role matters most

Joint plans empower parents and caregivers to lead their child's learning. You choose what feels realistic for your family and decide when and how to try ideas during your daily routines.

## What is an individualized family service plan (IFSP) and why is it important?

The IFSP is a document that has information about your team, your family, the outcomes (goals) that you set, and the services provided to help your child and family reach those outcomes. It is a roadmap to success. It's customized, includes what you think is important, and adapts as your child grows. It's a way to make sure your child gets to enjoy being a kid while learning and developing at their own pace, with you cheering them on every step of the way.



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## Have questions?

If you have questions about a joint plan, talk with your provider or service coordinator. Planning together helps identify the supports, resources, and strategies your family needs to help your child continue learning between visits.

Supporting your child doesn't stop when a home visit ends. With joint planning, families feel confident, capable, and supported as they help their child learn and grow every day. ❖

## Staying up to date on childhood vaccines

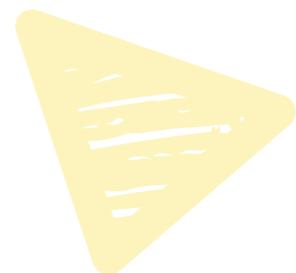
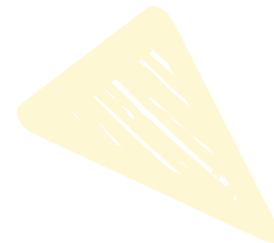
DHS wants families to know that Wisconsin's childhood vaccine recommendations have not changed. DHS continues to encourage families to follow the vaccine schedule based on research and recommended by pediatricians.

Earlier this year, federal agencies made updates to the national childhood vaccine schedule. In response, DHS reviewed those changes and stood by its recommendation for families in Wisconsin to continue following the schedule supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). This schedule is widely used by health care providers and is based on long-standing scientific evidence that shows vaccines protect children from serious, preventable diseases.

### What this means for families

- Talk with your child's health care provider about vaccines and follow the recommended schedule.
- Wisconsin's school and child care immunization requirements remain the same.
- Recommended vaccines continue to be covered through Wisconsin Medicaid and the Vaccines for Children program for eligible children.

Vaccines have helped keep children healthy for generations, and DHS continues to support their safe and effective use to protect children, families, and communities across Wisconsin.



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## Families who want to learn more can:

- Read the DHS news release about Wisconsin's current vaccine guidance: [dhs.wi.gov/news/releases/010826.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/news/releases/010826.htm)
- Check their child's vaccination record through the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) or ask their health care provider for help accessing it: [dhs.wi.gov/immunization/wir.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/immunization/wir.htm)
- Review Wisconsin's recommended childhood vaccination schedule: [dhs.wi.gov/immunization/schedule.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/immunization/schedule.htm) ❖

## 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.

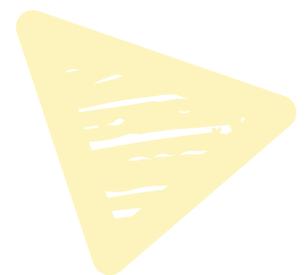
Other council members include individuals from advocacy groups, Birth to 3 Program staff, and other county and state agency staff.

### Join the Interagency Coordinating Council

DHS is looking for parent members to join the ICC. Members' terms last 3 years.

The ICC meets four times a year, and most meetings are held remotely (with attendance online or by phone). There is an in-person meeting at the Circles of Life Conference in Stevens Point, May 14-15, 2026.

If you are interested in becoming a council member or learning more about the council, go to the ICC member webpage to learn more about the council at [dhs.wi.gov/b3icc/members.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/b3icc/members.htm).



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If you are interested in applying to become a council member, go to [evers.wi.gov/Pages/Application\\_Process.aspx](https://evers.wi.gov/Pages/Application_Process.aspx). From there:

1. Click on "Application" link
2. Complete the application online. When asked what board you are interested in serving on, Select "Birth to Three Program Interagency Coordinating Council" as your first choice.

## **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 [dhs.wi.gov/b3icc/meetings.htm](https://dhs.wi.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 [dhs.wi.gov/b3icc/index.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/b3icc/index.htm). ❖

## **The 2026 Circles of Life Conference: a time to learn, connect, and grow**

The Circles of Life Conference is an annual gathering for Wisconsin's families who have children of any age with disabilities. Providers and other professionals who support families also attend, creating a shared space to learn, connect, and grow together.

In its 40th year, Circles of Life continues to offer a welcoming, family-focused experience. Over the course of the conference, families can connect with one another, attend educational sessions, and learn about new resources that support children, youth, and families across Wisconsin.

Many of the conference speakers are both parents of children with disabilities and professionals. Sessions focus on practical ideas and strategies for partnering together to support positive outcomes for children. Topics include self-care, life after high school, advocacy, financial planning, and more.

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## Activities for the whole family include:

- 30 family-focused workshops
- Gathering of Youth, a dynamic program for youth ages 10–18 with disabilities
- Sibshop Kids and Sibshop Teens, half-day sessions for siblings
- Family Fun Night
- More than 45 resource vendors
- Spanish and ASL interpreters, if requested

## Conference details

The 2026 Circles of Life Conference will take place on **Thursday and Friday, May 14–15, 2026**, at the **Holiday Inn Stevens Point-Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin**. This family-friendly location offers easy parking, an on-site restaurant, and a pool.

Room blocks at the Holiday Inn Stevens Point-Convention Center and the Holiday Inn Express and Suites Stevens Point are available at a discounted rate. Families are encouraged to make hotel reservations early.

## Registration

For conference information and registration, visit [familyvoiceswi.org/circles-of-life-conference](https://familyvoiceswi.org/circles-of-life-conference). ❖

## Birth to 3 Program (Part C) grant application available for public comment

Every year, the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program must submit an application for a grant to the Office of Special Education Programs in the U.S. Department of Education to receive federal funding.

Families can comment on the grant application and give feedback on how the Birth to 3 Program plans to spend the federal money.

Family voices are important—we want to hear from families with children in the Birth to 3 Program. All comments will be taken into consideration.



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Families can see the 2026 Birth to 3 Program Grant Application at [dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/reports/federal.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/reports/federal.htm).

Families can submit comments by email to [dhsbirthto3@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsbirthto3@dhs.wisconsin.gov) or by mail to the following address:

Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Attn. Part C Coordinator  
201 East Washington Ave  
Madison, WI 53707

You can ask for a paper copy of the Part C application by emailing [dhsbirthto3@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsbirthto3@dhs.wisconsin.gov). ❖

## 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.

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!

## Helpful resources for families

### Free school readiness for four-year-olds

Governor Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), launched Get Kids Ready, Wisconsin’s first-ever state-funded school readiness program for children who will be four years old on or before September 1, 2026. Through this new initiative, child care providers who offer approved school readiness instruction will receive state payments, and participating families



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will not pay for that part of the day. The program helps children build skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond, including academic, physical, social-emotional, and self-help skills.

Learn more at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Get Kids Ready page: [dcf.wisconsin.gov/getkidsready](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/getkidsready) ❖

## 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.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2024](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2024). ❖

## 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-3-2026](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2026).

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