



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).



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.

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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! ❖

Prior Written Notice keeps you in-the-know

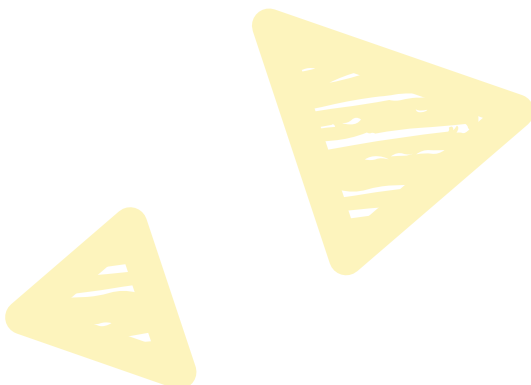
Planning ahead isn't just for schedules! Knowing about upcoming changes to your child's services and supports helps you plan for your family's future. The Birth to 3 Program always wants you to understand what's happening with your child's services, why something might be changing, and what options are available. That's why the Birth to 3 Program will give you “prior written notice” to tell you about important decisions or actions before they happen. This makes sure you're involved in making decisions and know what to do, especially if you disagree.

What is prior written notice?

Prior written notice is formal communication from the Birth to 3 Program to your family about upcoming changes to your child's services and supports. It might be part of a consent form, your child's individualized family service plan (IFSP), or a separate document. It shares information about a decision or action related to your child's Birth to 3 Program services, including:

- What is being suggested for your child, or what is being refused.
- Why something is being suggested or refused.
- What information the action is based on.
- What your rights are regarding the action.

The goal is to make sure you know about and understand all actions before they happen and to involve you in making decisions.

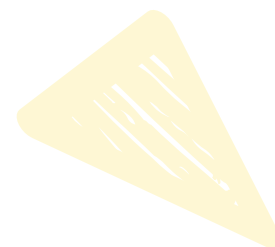


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When will I get prior written notice?

The Birth to 3 Program will always give you prior written notice when the program is or is not suggesting activities for your child and family. These activities include:

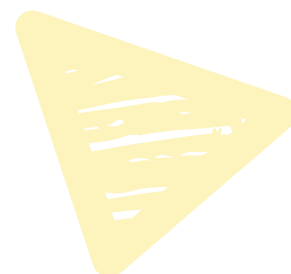
- Screening or not screening your child to check for possible delays.
- Evaluating or not evaluating your child's development.
- Assessing or not assessing your child's skills and abilities.
- Finding or not finding your child eligible for the program.
- Providing or not providing one or more services to your child and family.
- Referring your child for special education services available through the school district.
- Connecting your family to other education programs and community resources when your child leaves the program.



What do I do with the information in prior written notice?

You deserve to know ahead of time when decisions are being made about your child in the Birth to 3 Program. When you get prior written notice about a decision or action, we encourage you to:

- Make sure you understand what's happening. Ask questions if you have them.
- Check that the action is based on the right information. You can always add or correct information if something is wrong.
- Share information about program activities with others.
- Make sure you know your rights. Ask about what the program offers and how to refuse consent, file an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) complaint, participate in mediation, or ask for a due process hearing. ❖



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You have a right to fair services and treatment

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is here to support your child's development and help your family get the services you need. As a family in the program, you have rights that help protect your child and guide the services you receive. Knowing and understanding these rights empowers you to make informed decisions about your child's early intervention journey.

The laws that protect your rights

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program follows federal and state laws that ensure children with developmental delays or disabilities get the right services.

- [IDEA Part C](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/statute-chapter-33/subchapter-iv/part-c) (sites.ed.gov/idea/statute-chapter-33/subchapter-iv/part-c) is the federal law that makes early intervention services available to infants and toddlers with disabilities.
- Wisconsin's [DHS 90 Administrative Code](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dhs/030/90/Title) (docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dhs/030/90/Title) provides state-specific rules for how the Birth to 3 Program must operate.

These laws ensure that all children and families in the program receive high-quality services tailored to their needs.

Your rights as a family

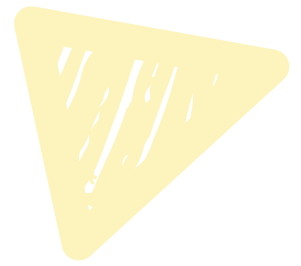
As a family enrolled in the Birth to 3 Program, you have specific rights to help make sure you get fair services and treatment. You have the right to:

- **Access services:** Your child is entitled to early intervention services, if they qualify.
- **Be involved in decisions:** You have the right to be actively involved in decisions about your child's services and to help create an individualized family service plan (IFSP).
- **Privacy and confidentiality:** Your child's personal information is protected and cannot be shared without your consent.

What is an individualized family service plan (IFSP)?

The IFSP is a document that has information about your family, the outcomes (goals) that you set, and what services will be 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.

- **Understand your options:** You have the right to be informed about all available services and to ask questions about the supports your child receives.
- **Resolve concerns:** If you disagree with a decision made by the program, you have the right to voice your concerns and seek a resolution.



What if you disagree with a decision?

The IFSP team, which includes your family, will make many decisions about supports and services for your child and family. There may be times when you have concerns about your child's services, eligibility, or assessment results. If you disagree with a decision, you have several options to resolve the issue:

- **Talk with your service coordinator:** Ask questions and share your concerns to better understand the decision.
- **Request mediation:** A neutral third party can help facilitate a discussion to reach an agreement. Visit the [Birth to 3 Program: Mediation webpage](https://dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm) (dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm) for more information.
- **Ask for a due process hearing:** This is a formal legal process where a hearing officer reviews your concern and makes a decision. Visit the [Birth to 3 Program: Due Process Hearing webpage](https://dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/hearings.htm) (dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/hearings.htm) for more information.
- **File an IDEA complaint:** If you believe the Birth to 3 program is not following IDEA regulations, you can submit a formal complaint. Visit the [Birth to 3 Program: IDEA Complaint webpage](https://dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/complaints.htm) (dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/complaints.htm) for more information.

Your service coordinator can provide more details about each of these options and help guide you through the process.



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How to learn more about your rights

To better understand your rights as a family in the Birth to 3 Program, check out [Your Child's and Family's Birth to 3 Program Rights, P-21106](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-21106) (dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-21106). It provides detailed information on your protections and what to do if you have concerns.

We're here to support you!

The Birth to 3 Program is committed to partnering with families to ensure children receive the services they need. If you have questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to talk to your primary service provider or reach out to your service coordinator. Find your service coordinator's information on your family's IFSP. By understanding your rights, you can make the best choices for your child's development and well-being. ❖

Child outcomes track how the Birth to 3 Program helps children grow and learn

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is designed to help young children with developmental delays and disabilities grow, learn, and thrive. One way we measure how well early intervention services in the Birth to 3 Program are working is through child outcomes. They're a way to track your child's development and progress while getting support.

What are child outcomes?

A child outcome is a way to measure the progress a child getting early intervention services has made in their learning and development. Every state, including Wisconsin, is required to report child outcome data to the federal government. This helps make sure children and families like yours are getting services that work well.

Child outcome results are entered into a state system by each county program. The state gathers and reviews the results for the whole state and each county. The child outcome results are shared with each county.



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The results help counties and the state understand how early intervention supports and services:

- Helped your child to make progress in their development.
- Helped your child gain new skills.
- Helped your child catch up to or move closer to the development of peers their age.
- Can better support your family.

The state looks at child outcome results from every county to check the overall progress made by children getting early intervention services across Wisconsin. These statewide results are then reported to the federal Department of Education. The results do not have information that could identify your child, so it is anonymous.

How child outcomes are measured

Child outcomes measure your child's development in three key areas:

1. Social-emotional skills (including social relationships)
 - How your child interacts with you and other children
 - Examples: Smiling back at a caregiver, playing with other kids, expressing emotions in a way others understand
2. Learning and skills (including early language and communication)
 - How your child explores and learns new things, including saying words and talking
 - Examples: Looking at books, imitating sounds or words, using gestures like waving or pointing
3. How your child meets their own needs
 - How your child moves, eats, and takes care of their basic needs
 - Examples: Picking up food to eat, learning to use a spoon, moving from sitting to standing, or showing they are hungry

These three areas are all connected. They give the IFSP team a fuller picture of how your child is developing.



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What is the child outcomes rating process?

The child outcomes rating process happens twice while your child is in the Birth to 3 Program:

1. When your child enters the program
2. When your child leaves the program

This process gives the IFSP team a picture of your child's development at the start and end of their services. It helps the IFSP team, which includes you, to understand how much your child has learned and grown compared to when they started.

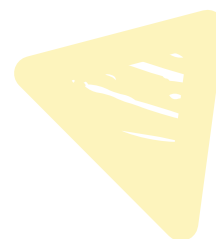
The child outcomes rating process also checks to see if your child's skills are like the skills of children who are not in the program and are the same age as your child.

Skills in the three outcome areas (see the **How child outcomes are measured** section) are rated on a scale from 1 to 7. These numbers help measure how your child is developing the skills that are expected for children their age and if some skills are delayed.

How can I participate in the child outcomes process?

You are the expert on your child! The development you see and the information you provide are most important in understanding your child's growth. Here's how you can be involved:

- Share what you see every day with the team. You witness your child's progress in ways that professionals may not.
- Describe how your child acts in different places and with different people. This includes at home, at daycare, with family members, and in the community.
- Talk about your child's culture and your family values and beliefs. Every family is unique, and cultural differences play a role in child development. For example, in some cultures, parents may continue feeding their child longer, while others encourage self-feeding at an earlier age. A family's culture also includes things like being sports fans, enjoying the outdoors, or going to a fish fry every Friday.



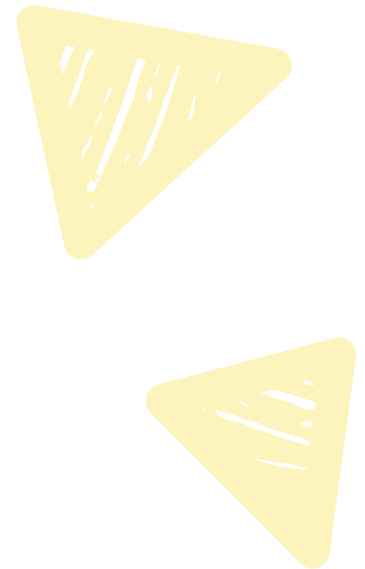
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- Share information from medical visits. This can help the team understand your child's overall development.
- Ask to join the team meeting when they will be talking about your child's outcomes ratings.

The more information you share, the more accurate and meaningful your child's outcome ratings will be. Accurate ratings help families, IFSP teams, the state, and the federal government know what works well in early intervention and also how the program can improve.

How can I learn more about the child outcomes process?

- Check out the [Birth to 3 Program Child Outcomes Data](https://dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/reports/child-outcomes.htm) dashboard (dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/reports/child-outcomes.htm).
 - It shows annual child outcome results for Wisconsin as reported in our Annual Performance Review.
 - Use the dashboard to:
 - Explore trends for each outcome area. You can see what percent of children made progress in each area or were within age expectations by the time they exited.
 - See how your local program is doing at helping children meet the outcomes of the program. You can see how results have changed over time and how they compare to other programs and the state as a whole.
- Explore the [Annual Performance Review](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/spp-apr-letters) (sites.ed.gov/idea/spp-apr-letters). It's a public report that each state submits to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education about how well our program follows the requirements and purposes of IDEA.
- Talk to your service provider or service coordinator. ❖



Helpful resources for families

Lead testing during pregnancy

Lead in your blood during pregnancy can cause problems for you and your developing baby. It can cause pre-eclampsia, miscarriage, gestational hypertension (high blood pressure), low birth weight,

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and impaired brain development. That's why it's so important to get tested for lead if you might have been exposed.

Learn more on the [Lead-Safe Wisconsin: Health Care Guidance for Children and Perinatal Patients](https://dhs.wi.gov/lead/health-care-children-and-perinatal-patients) page (dhs.wi.gov/lead/health-care.htm). ❖

Learn more about the Birth to 3 Program

This brochure gives an overview of the program: [Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program First 1,000 Days Brochure, P-02928](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-02928) (dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-02928)

This guide explains the supports and services available: [Birth to 3 Program Services at a Glance, P-03011](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-03011) (dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-03011)

This booklet helps you understand how early intervention helps your family and child learn and grow together: [Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers With Delays and Disabilities in Wisconsin, P-03002](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-03002) (dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-03002)

Previous issues of this newsletter are available online: [All in for Kids: Birth to 3 Program 2026](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2026) (dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2026)

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 the [email signup page](https://dhs.wi.gov/aboutdhs/alerts.htm) (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.

Para leer este boletín en español, visite dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2026.

Xav nyeem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2026.

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