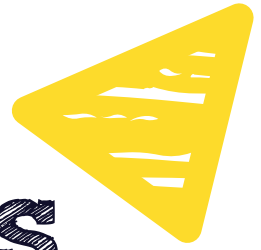


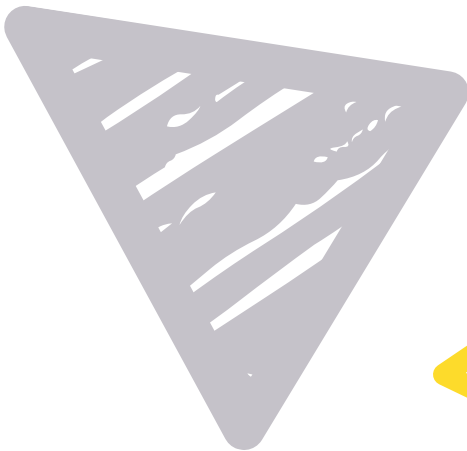


All in for Kids



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 to see your family in action! The All in for Kids newsletter is for families. We'd love to feature your photos and experiences for other readers to enjoy. What can you 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 outing or activity with your child.
- A photo of a craft project 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 with "All in for Kids" in the subject line.

dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/index.htm

You can also send ideas for stories you would like to see in the newsletter. We look forward to your ideas and contributions! ❖

Staying confident in your child's vaccine schedule

You may have seen news or headlines lately about vaccines that felt confusing. We want Wisconsin families to know: the recommended [vaccine schedule](https://dhs.wi.gov/immunization/index.htm) (dhs.wi.gov/immunization/index.htm) for children has not changed.

Wisconsin DHS continues to endorse the childhood and adolescent immunization schedules published by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. These recommendations are based on ongoing, careful review of scientific evidence.

For families who use Medicaid, Wisconsin Medicaid continues to cover all recommended childhood vaccines at no cost to you. For families not enrolled in Medicaid, your health care provider or pharmacy can help you understand coverage through [private insurance or other programs](https://dhs.wi.gov/immunization/vaccine-programs.htm), (dhs.wi.gov/immunization/vaccine-programs.htm) like Vaccines for Children.

If you have questions about the vaccine schedule, the best place to start is your child's health care provider. They can walk you through what's recommended and why. ❖

Child Find: Helping every child get the support they need

What is Child Find?

Child Find is the ongoing work Wisconsin does to find and connect infants and toddlers with delays or disabilities to early intervention services as early as possible. It includes raising awareness about early intervention, screening and evaluating children, and helping families access services.

Both the state and county Birth to 3 Programs are required to carry out child find activities. To do this, we use what's called an informed referral network.

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What is an informed referral network?

An informed referral network is a group of community partners working together to serve young children and their families. These partners include health care professionals, early Head Start, child care centers and providers, family resource centers, the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program, child welfare agencies, and more.

These partnerships are one of the most effective ways to identify children with delays, disabilities, diagnosed conditions, and other developmental concerns. These community partners create opportunities to learn about screening young children and share information about community resources. This network also refers children who may have a developmental delay or disability and who may need early intervention.

What role do parents and caregivers play?

Parents and caregivers just like you play a key role in child find.

- You can refer your own child, another family's child, or a friend's child. Parents and caregivers are a leading source of referrals to the program.
- You can directly request a developmental evaluation for a child under age three.
- You can take an active role during screening, evaluation, and family assessment to help determine if your child is eligible and what support your child and family needs.

How can I support child find?

- Make a referral yourself if you have a concern about a child's development.
- Help friends and family reach out to the Birth to 3 Program if they have concerns about their child.
- Talk with your family and friends about the Birth to 3 Program.
- Use materials from the [Birth to 3 Program: First 1,000 Days Toolkit](https://dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/outreach-campaign.htm) (dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/outreach-campaign.htm) to help others learn about child development, early signs of delays and disabilities, and the benefits of the program.
- Share information about the Birth to 3 Program with your community. ❖

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Services everywhere your child goes: natural environments

Your Birth to 3 Program team wants your child to grow and learn in the places they already spend time — not just during scheduled visits.

What is a natural environment?

A natural environment is everywhere your child already goes and includes people your child spends time with and things your child already does. This includes home, but it can also include child care and other settings your child is used to.

Natural learning environments go beyond specific locations — they include the everyday routines, experiences, and activities that are already part of your family and community life. Infants and toddlers learn best through the everyday interactions they have with people they know in places they know.

Why does this matter?

Providing services in the same settings your child will actually use their new skills helps those skills stick. Your Birth to 3 Program team wants to know how your child learns, behaves, and interacts with the people and places that make up their world.

Using the places your child and family already spend time helps your child explore new skills and helps you and your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team understand what will and won't work. Providing services in other locations your child is already used to, with other caregivers, can support and reinforce your child's new skills in the settings where they'll actually use them.

How are services scheduled?

Services are built around your family's and child's interests and routines, including where and when they happen. That might mean working on bath-time skills during an actual bath or working on interacting with other children while at child care.

The IFSP team, which includes you, decides where and when services happen. Keep in mind, a release of information is needed before your team talks about your child's development with another caregiver, like a child care provider. ❖

What is an individualized family service plan (IFSP)?

The IFSP is your child and family's roadmap to success. It's customized, focuses on 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.

A question for your IFSP team:

How does your team schedule visits to make sure services happen in a timely, flexible way that fits your child's and your family's needs and priorities?

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Please enjoy this article written by Wendy Overturf, Intensive Support Specialist and Resource Coordinator for WI FACETS

Everyday activities that support language development

By Wendy Overturf

Language development is essential for reading because children need to understand words before they can understand what they read. A strong vocabulary and good listening skills help children make sense of stories, follow directions, and recognize how language works. When children can express themselves and understand others, it becomes easier for them to connect sounds to words and comprehend text. Building language skills early gives children a strong foundation for becoming confident, successful readers.

Supporting your child's language development at home doesn't require special training or expensive materials. It just takes time, attention, and everyday interactions. Parents play a powerful role in helping children build communication skills, and the good news is that many of the most effective strategies fit naturally into daily routines. By being intentional with how you talk, listen, and engage, you can create a language-rich environment that supports your child's growth.

One of the simplest and most impactful things you can do is talk with your child throughout the day. Narrate what you're doing, describe your surroundings, and include them in conversations. For example, while cooking, you might say, "I'm cutting the apples. They're crunchy and sweet." This kind of modeling exposes children to new vocabulary and sentence structures. Even if your child is not yet speaking in full sentences, hearing language used consistently helps them learn how communication works.

“One of the simplest and most impactful things you can do is talk with your child throughout the day.”

Reading together is another key activity that promotes language development. Set aside time each day to read books your child

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enjoys. Make it interactive by asking questions, pointing to pictures, and encouraging your child to predict what might happen next. You don't need to read every word on the page. What matters most is the conversation you build around the story. This helps children develop comprehension skills, expand vocabulary, and learn how stories are structured.

Play is also an important opportunity for language learning. Whether your child is building with blocks, playing with dolls, or pretending to cook, you can join in and add language to their activities. Follow your child's lead and describe what they are doing or suggest ideas to extend the play. For example, "Your bear looks hungry — what should we feed him?" This type of interaction encourages imagination while reinforcing language in a meaningful context.

Another helpful strategy is to expand on what your child says. If your child says a single word like "car," you can respond with a fuller sentence such as, "Yes, that's a big red car driving fast!" This not only validates their attempt to communicate but also models more complex language. Over time, children begin to imitate these patterns and use longer, more detailed sentences themselves.

Listening to your child is also important. Give your child time to express themselves, even if it takes a while. Resist the urge to finish their sentences or correct them too quickly. Instead, show interest in what they are saying and respond with encouragement. Phrases like "Tell me more about that" or "That's a great idea" help build confidence and motivate children to keep communicating.

Finally, try to create a balance between screen time and real-life interaction. While some educational programs can be helpful, they should not replace conversations and shared experiences. Children learn language best through direct engagement with others, where they can ask questions, receive feedback, and practice using words in context.

By adding these simple strategies into your daily life, you can make a meaningful difference in your child's language development. Consistency, patience, and positive interactions are key and add up to big gains in communication skills.

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All children develop at different rates. However, it is important for parents to monitor their child's [developmental milestones](https://www.cdc.gov/act-early/milestones/) (cdc.gov/act-early/milestones/) because they help show how a child is learning to use and understand language. If you think your child is not meeting language development milestones, the first step is to talk with your child's pediatrician or healthcare provider. They can help determine if further evaluation is needed. They may recommend a speech-language evaluation or early intervention services. If it is determined that there is a delay, early intervention is important because young children learn and grow quickly during the early years and professional intervention may help prevent more significant challenges as your child ages.

If you'd like to read more articles from Wendy, check out the [WI FACETS Family Engagement Newsletter page](https://servingongroups.org/newsletter) (servingongroups.org/newsletter) and sign up to receive it! ❖

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)

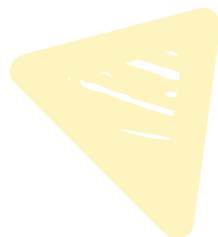
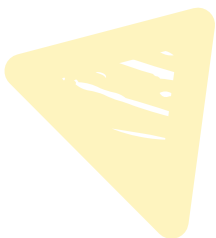
Previous issues of this newsletter are available online: [All in for Kids: Birth to 3 Program 2026](https://dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2026) (dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/akidsb-3-2026) ❖

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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 the [Medicaid Long-Term Care Email Subscriptions webpage](https://dhs.wi.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm) (dhs.wi.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm).
- Scroll down and click the Birth to 3 Program Information for Families link.
- Tell your family and friends in the 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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