

# Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Conversation Checklist for Health Care Providers

This conversation checklist gives you more information about the supports and services that families can access with the [Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program](#) and will help you answer questions from a child's family members and caregivers.

Once you identify a child who may be eligible for early intervention services, you must refer the family to the appropriate [county Birth to 3 Program](#) within two working days of identification. Sharing this information with the family will help them understand why a referral is being made and how the Birth to 3 Program can help. The [Referral to Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program form](#), F-00068, from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is an easy way to make a referral. Refer to the [Tips for Birth to 3 Program Referrals](#) document for more information about making referrals.

## ✓ What does "early intervention" mean?

Early intervention is a term that describes the services and supports for babies and young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. In Wisconsin, early intervention is known as the Birth to 3 Program. This program understands the importance of acting early when delays or disabilities are identified in young children to support long-term development.

## How can early intervention help a child?

✓ Early intervention helps each child reach their developmental outcomes. Early intervention positively impacts a child's overall development and helps children improve their abilities and learn new skills.

## ✓ What is the Birth to 3 Program?

✓ The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention program that provides special education and therapy services to infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities. The [Birth to 3 Program brochure](#) gives an overview of the program that may be helpful to families.

## ✓ What are the eligibility requirements for the Birth to 3 Program?

Children under 3 years old who qualify include:

- Children with a 25 percent delay in one or more areas of development
- Children with atypical development
- Children with specific diagnoses associated with significant developmental delays

## ✓ What happens after the child is referred to the Birth to 3 Program?

When the Birth to 3 Program receives a referral, the local program will contact the family. Then, the family can learn more about the program and ask questions. The program may offer a screening or suggest an evaluation to determine if the child is eligible for the program. If the family is found eligible, they can choose whether or not to enroll.

## ✓ What services does the Birth to 3 Program provide?

Services include support for the child's family to meet the child's unique developmental needs. Supports and services may help some children function like infants or toddlers their age without a developmental delay. For other children, services and supports may help their development and lessen the impact of their developmental delay.

Birth to 3 Program services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Service coordination
- Special education or instruction
- Speech therapy
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Other types of services, depending on the child's and family's needs



### **Where are Birth to 3 Program services provided?**

Services are provided in the family's home, in locations where the family spends time, and in other settings typical for an infant or toddler their age without a disability.

Services are based on the family's and child's unique and specific needs. How often and what kind of services a family receives can be adapted to support all levels of need. Birth to 3 Program services can be as hands-on or as frequent as needed.



### **How are Birth to 3 Program services provided?**

The Birth to 3 Program uses a set of practices that incorporates coaching, teaming, and natural learning environments. These practices aim to expand the abilities of parents, caregivers, and family members to support the child's development. This approach allows the child to learn in many ways throughout their day rather than only during early intervention visits.



### **Why do Birth to 3 Program services incorporate the family and child's interests and routines?**

Children learn best from their families and in the context of their everyday activities and routines. The Birth to 3 Program provides services in natural environments and during everyday activities. If a child's interests are the basis for their involvement in an activity, they become more engaged by playing and participating.

When children are engaged in an activity, they can practice existing skills and learn new ones. They can also explore and find out how their own behaviors make things happen. This leads to continued interest and participation in the activity.



### **How does the Birth to 3 Program support families during transitions?**

The program supports families with changes in life situations, such as starting a job or caring for a new baby. The Birth to 3 Program also connects families with other programs during and after early intervention.



### **What is the cost to the family for Birth to 3 Program services?**

Families only contribute to the cost of the services listed on their own individualized plan in the program. There is a sliding scale cost share system for families with incomes at or more than 300 percent of the [Federal Poverty Level](#). The maximum family cost share payment is \$150 per month. More information can be found in the [Introduction to Parental Cost Share](#) brochure.



### **Can children receive outpatient services through the Birth to 3 Program?**

Children and families in the Birth to 3 Program can receive outpatient and other services while participating in the program. Children may also be eligible for other [services for children with delays or disabilities](#) through the Department of Health Services.

## **Call to Action**

### **Make a referral and request the family's consent to share information**

Share with the family that you will make a referral to the program. Review and complete the referral to the [Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program form](#) with the family. Request consent to share additional information between the clinic and the county Birth to 3 Program.

### **Give the family the contact information for the local Birth to 3 Program in their county**

Families are served by the local Birth to 3 Program in the county where the family lives. They should contact the [primary point of referral](#).