

# Birth to 3 Program

The Birth to 3 Program is a family-centered early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. Because the first three years build a lifetime, the goal of the program is to enhance the young child's development and to support the family's knowledge, skills, and abilities as they interact with and raise their child. Each child (and his or her family) receives services and support based on individual needs. Participation is voluntary, and records are kept confidential.

## ELIGIBILITY

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### Is My Child Eligible?

The program is for children ages birth to 36 months. Eligibility is based on a diagnosed disability or significant delay in one or more areas of development. Upon request, a diagnostic team will evaluate your child's ability to learn; move, see and hear; communicate and understand others' communications; respond to and relate with others; and eat, dress and care for daily living needs. A Birth to 3 service coordinator will help your family to understand and participate in the evaluation process.

Your child's eligibility is not affected by your family income; however, you may need to contribute to the cost of services. Your family's share of the cost will range from \$0 to \$150 per month, depending on your income and expenses.

## BENEFITS

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More information is available at [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/birthto3/index.htm](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/birthto3/index.htm)

### What Are The Benefits Of Birth to 3?

- The program assists children to reach their full potential. The earlier a child's developmental delays are discovered, the more opportunities there are for that child to increase skills and abilities. The goal is to help children participate in their communities.
- The program affirms the importance of parents, family and friends in a young child's life. The early intervention team will provide ideas and techniques to help a family enhance their child's development and learning potential.
- Services are provided in the child's natural environments. These are unique to each family and might include the home, childcare and other community settings.
- Specific rights for children and families are built into the program. Some of these include: parents must give written consent for - and are free to refuse - any evaluations, assessments or services; records will be kept confidential; parents can disagree with decisions regarding eligibility and appropriate services.

## APPLICATION

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For information about how to initiate the evaluation process, call the coordinator of the Iowa County Birth to 3 Program at 608-935-2776 or visit the office of Unified Community Services, 1112 Professional Drive, Dodgeville, WI 53533. Hours are Mon 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tues, Wed, Thurs 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fri 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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