



Wisconsin Birth to 3 Early Intervention Program

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Learning Objectives

- Understand the purpose of the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program
- Learn how eligibility and intervention are determined
- Know how to make a referral to a Birth to 3 Program

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Purpose of Birth to 3

- Provide **resources, supports and services** to meet the **developmental needs** of infants and toddlers who have **delayed development** or have a **physical or mental condition** which is likely to result in delayed development
- Address **family needs** related to their **child's development**

HS90 (Wisconsin State Law), IDEA Part C (Federal Law) 3

. . . Learning and development occurs more rapidly in young children when they are engaged in activities of interest to them, thus creating opportunities for them to practice existing skills, explore the environment and learn new skills.

Dunst, C. J., Hester, S., & Shields, H. (2000). Interest-based natural learning opportunities. Young Exceptional Children Monograph Series No. 2: Natural Environments and Inclusion, 37-46. www.wisconsinbirthto3.org/publications/monographs/ 4

I figured he was just being his curious-two-year-old-self when he kept taking his head band off and smiling at me. Then the therapists said he was working on his fine motor and cognitive skills.

—parent (anonymous)



Program Facts

- County-based program in Wisconsin
- Under WI Department of Health Services



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Funding

- Federal, State and local county dollars
- MA and Private Health Insurance
- Parental cost share
 - \$150 Max, starting at over 250% of poverty
 - 40% or more have Medical Assistance

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Children Served (2009)

- 5,999 Children on 10/1/2009
 - 2.78% for birth to 3 years
 - .98% under 1 year of age
- State & Federal Priority: Increase the number of children under 1 year of age
- Physicians and the members of their practices are essential partners

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Eligibility

- Developmental Delay
 - 25% delay or -1.3 standard deviation below the mean in one area of development:
 - Cognitive
 - Motor
 - Social emotional
 - Communication
 - Adaptive
- Diagnosed Condition
 - High probability of resulting in a developmental delay

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Eligibility and Planning

- Evaluation
 - Determines if child is eligible for program
- Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)
 - Determines services, resources and supports to be provided
 - Based on family priorities and team consensus

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Making a Referral

- Anyone can make a referral to Birth to 3
- Contact information by county
 - <http://dhs.wi.gov/bdds/b3dir/index.htm>
 - Wisconsin First Step (800-642-7837)
- Inform families about Birth to 3

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What Happens After a Referral is Made?

- Service coordinator assigned to family
- Visits within two weeks — typical
 - Get to know family and child
 - Begin evaluation
- Team conducts evaluation and meets to:
 - Determine eligibility
 - Develop initial IFSP
- Occurs within 45 days of referral

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Physician Communication

- Birth to 3 staff inform physicians of referral outcome
- Consent for exchange of information is required
 - Often originated by the Birth to 3 Program
 - Could also come from physician's office

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Approaches to Practice in Birth to 3

- Services in natural environments
 - Home
 - Preschool / child care
 - Other community settings with typically developing children
- Child development and family outcomes
- Family partnerships and support

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Family Partnerships

- Support to families in embedding practice into daily routines and activities
- Increasing a family's skills and knowledge during and after Birth to 3
- It is about what happens when professionals aren't present

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"The outcome we seek . . . is to support parents' capacity to 'captain their own ship' and not become dependent on professionals for all decision making."

Kristine Ovland Pilkington, OT

Side by Side: Transdisciplinary Early Intervention in Natural Environments, AOTA publication, 2006
<http://www.aota.org/Pubs/CTP/11997-2007/Features/2006/1-4/0306.asp>

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Evidence for Birth to 3 Practices

- Research tells us **more therapy isn't better**. It is **how** we practice that makes a difference.



Rush & Shelden, 2010

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- Development is integrated across domains
- Critical windows of child development
- Context matters
 - Natural learning opportunities
 - Teachable moments
 - Parent/caregiver and child relationships

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Contextually mediated skill development which is functional and social-adaptive permits young children greater opportunities to be involved in family and community activities.

Hart, B.E., & Pliskington, K.O. (2000). 19
Therapy in natural environments: The means or end goal for early intervention? *Infants and Young Children*, 12(4), 1-13.

How Does Birth to 3 Differ From Clinical Services?

- Case example
- Outcome — Improved participation in family dinner activities
 - Why is this important to the family?
 - What is already happening?
 - What is needed?
 - Child Development
 - Family Support
 - How will you measure success?

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Talking to Families About the Birth to 3 Program

- Information and referral
 - Discuss why a referral is suggested/appropriate
 - Discuss how it will get made
 - Encourage exchange of information
- Publicly funded program
 - With some families having a small parental cost share, depending on income
- Approaches to practice/intervention

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Describing the Birth to 3 Program

- Birth to 3 is a comprehensive program that will provide your child and family with services, resources and supports.
- The program is designed to meet your child's developmental needs in the context of your family priorities, routines and activities.

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The Birth to 3 Program.....

- Helps you learn more about your child's developmental needs and partners with you to demonstrate ways to:
 - Enhance you child's development
 - Become more confident in your skills
 - Know more about what to do when the professionals aren't present

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The Program...

- Helps families with the transition
- Provides families with information and resources
- Supports other family priorities

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For More Information

Birth to 3 Training and
Technical Assistance,
Waisman Center



www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3

Wisconsin Department
of Health Services,
Birth to 3 Program



<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/birthto3/index.htm>



Ask a Question



Viewing online?

- o Click on the chat icon above
- o Question emailed to Training Team
- o Questions answered by expert on topic
- o Response within 2-3 weeks



Viewing at a live training?

- o Organizer shares questions with Training Team



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- WI Medical Home Webcast Series
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Children and Youth with
Special Health Care Needs

