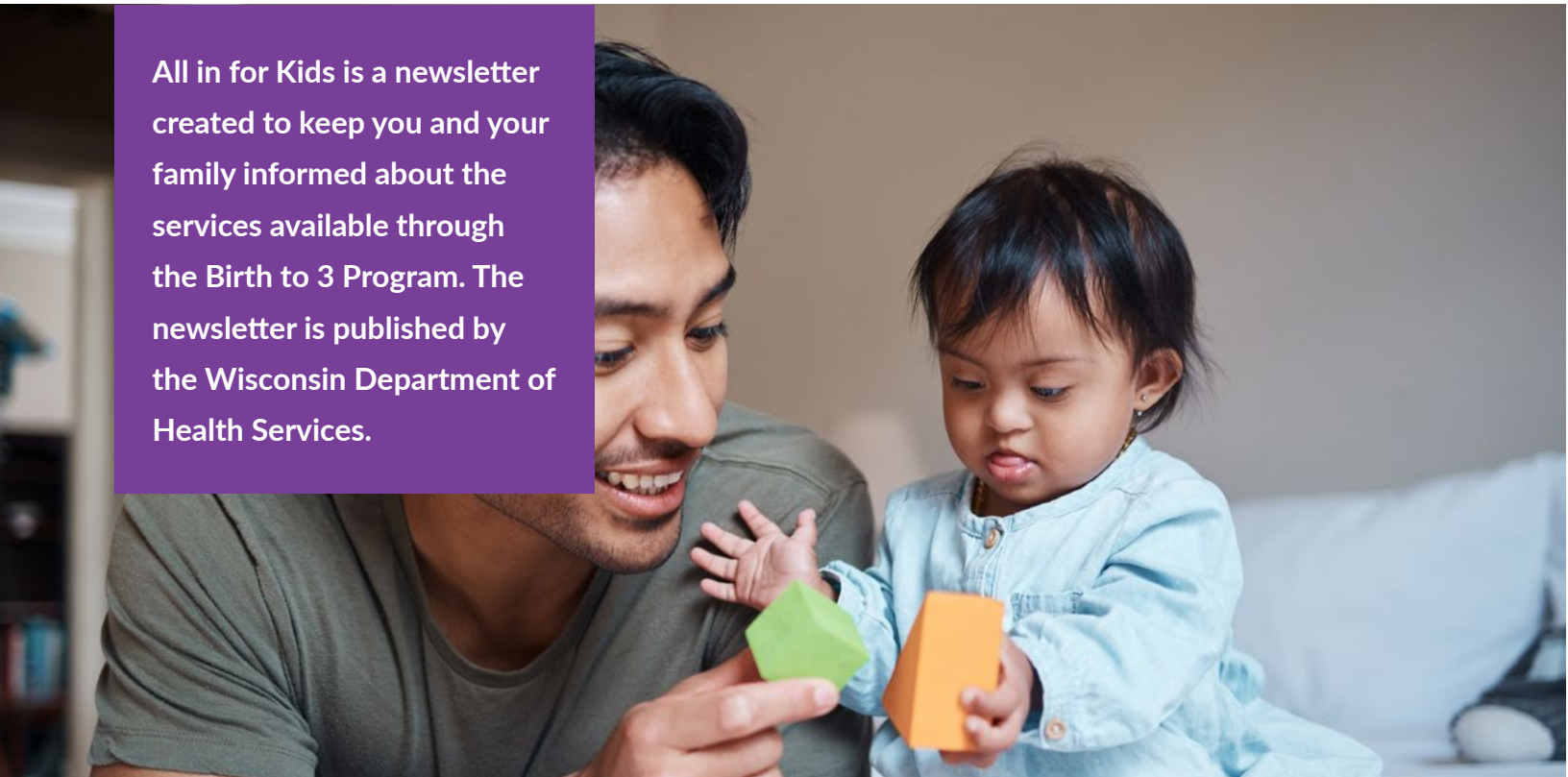


# All in for Kids

## *A Birth to 3 Program Family Newsletter*



All in for Kids is a newsletter created to keep you and your family informed about the services available through the Birth to 3 Program. The newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.



### Birth to 3 Program Services

The Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention special education program. It helps children under the age of 3 years old who have delays or disabilities. The program helps children learn, interact, and thrive at home, in daycare, and in the community. Families enrolled in the Birth to 3 Program can receive many services. The services that a family receives are based on the needs that the team identifies on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Examples of services a family may receive are special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology, and assistive technology. All families receive service coordination

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at no cost. We're going to highlight service coordination in this newsletter.

## Service Coordination

Each family in the Birth to 3 Program is provided a service coordinator. Service coordinator work in partnership with families, helping them find supports and services that meet their needs. They meet with families at their homes or other places that may be comfortable or convenient for the family. They get to know families by asking questions and hearing about what is important to them and their child. A trusting relationship between the service coordinator and the family they're helping is important. They give information about the team and help answer questions families might have.

When you meet with the service coordinator for your family, be honest and open about the strengths and needs of your child and family. Tell them about your child's likes and dislikes. Talk to them about your traditions, your culture, and other things that are important to your family.

Service coordinators help families:

- Schedule screenings, meetings, and evaluations.
- Understand the program and how services are provided.
- Coordinate with medical, health, and community providers.
- Connect with the school district.
- Receive the services listed in your IFSP.
- Assess if the supports and services are working and are helping meet your child's goals.
- Find answers to questions.
- Get information and resources.

The service coordinator helps you understand the program and participate as a team member. Reach out to your service coordinator to learn more about service coordination and how they can help.❖

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## WHAT IS AN IFSP?

Your Birth to 3 Program team, which includes your family, works together to create your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP is a written plan that outlines the actions to boost your child's development. This plan is created specifically for your child and family to help meet your unique goals.

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## Early Intervention Teams Work Together for Your Child's Success

The early intervention (EI) team plays a very important role in helping your family decide what services will most help the child in your care, how to deliver those services, and which providers can meet your child's needs. "Early intervention" is the term used for the supports and services that babies, young children, and families can get through the Birth to 3 Program. You and your family are important members of this team, along with other specialists.

Your EI team may include many different professionals who are there to help you and your child. Your EI team will include a service coordinator as well as a primary service provider who is a professional such as an occupational therapist or a speech therapist. The team will decide who the best fit is to be your child's primary service provider. The EI team also includes other professionals that will work with your child and family.

Some of the benefits to having an EI team include:

- Sharing your family's questions with a team of experts to help you get the best information.
- Learning from one another and brainstorming solutions together.
- Having multiple providers offering your family support and services.
- Keeping everyone on the same page with the IFSP.
- Avoiding duplication of services.
- Providing clear goals for team members' home visits.

### How does the team communicate?

The team meets at least once a month on a regular schedule. Based on your needs, meetings can be held in person or virtually, such as phone or video calls. Team meeting notes are taken to keep track of your child's development and to make sure the supports in your family's IFSP are helping your child and family. The primary service provider and service coordinator can bring questions to the team and answer questions about the team supporting the family. ❖

## DID YOU KNOW?

Service coordinators and primary service providers are very important members of the team helping your family. You can always reach out to your primary service providers to ask questions, get help finding resources, and talk about services in your family's IFSP.

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## Family Spotlight: Meet Jack!

Jack has been enrolled in the Birth to 3 Program since he was 3 months old. Jack loves working with his physical therapist. He lights up when she comes through the door. Having physical therapy in the family home has made a huge difference for Jack as he is more comfortable in his own home environment and has made significant progress. Jack has an entire cheering squad of sisters and cousins, and he loves to show his family the new skills he has learned after a physical therapy session. Jack's mother, Brooke, says the Birth to 3 Program team has been integral in supporting Jack and helping him be the best Jack can be!❖



## 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.

Email your family story or photo to [dhsbirthto3@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto: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!❖

## Helpful Resources for Families

### Ticks in Wisconsin

Ticks are found in many areas throughout Wisconsin in the spring, summer, and early fall. They can spread diseases to people and animals by biting them. Remember that when family members, including pets, spend time outside, you should:

- Do daily tick checks.
- Shower or bathe within two hours after being outdoors.

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- Use insect repellent.
- Wear long sleeves and pants to prevent ticks from getting on family members.

Other tick bite prevention tips can be found at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tick/bite-prevention.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tick/bite-prevention.htm).

## Learn More About the Birth to 3 Program

The First 1,000 Days brochure gives an overview of the program: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02928.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02928.htm)

The Birth to 3 Program Services at a Glance guide explains the supports and services available: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-03011.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-03011.htm)

The Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers With Delays and Disabilities in Wisconsin booklet helps you understand how early intervention helps your family and child learn and grow together: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-03022.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-03022.htm)

## 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 [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aboutdhs/alerts.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aboutdhs/alerts.htm) and scroll down and click the [Birth to 3 Program Information for Families](#). Don't forget to tell your family and friends in the program to sign up as well!

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All in for Kids 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 [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm).

Para leer este boletín en español, visite [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/AKids23](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/AKids23).

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