



Natural Partners: Physicians, Birth to 3 and Parents

Dear Physician Partner:

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program works to support parents in facilitating their child's development. Several guiding principles shape how early intervention professionals approach their work with children and families, including:

- Children's optimal development depends on their first being viewed as children and second as children with a problem or disability.
- Children's greatest resource is their family. Children are best served within the context of a family.
- Parents are partners in any activity that serves their children.
- The family is best supported within the context of a community.
- Professionals are most effective when they can work as a team member with parents and others.
- Collaboration is the best way to provide comprehensive services.
- Early intervention enhances the development of children.

Birth to 3 also aims to communicate clearly and effectively with medical partners serving children and families enrolled in the program. Birth to 3 providers work with eligible children and families to understand their strengths and needs, and identify functional outcomes. Supports and services offered through Birth to 3 will be aligned with these outcomes. Outcomes can frequently be met through a **primary service provider approach**, where one team member develops a strong relationship with a family. Other interventionists may support this primary relationship with periodic services and consultation. Having one primary professional working with a family often results in greater family satisfaction with at least equivalent efficacy to multidisciplinary service delivery.

No medical diagnosis is needed for referral to Birth to 3. Eligibility evaluation and service coordination are offered free of charge. Families enrolled in Birth to 3 programming with incomes considerably over Federal Poverty Guidelines are obligated to pay a **parental cost share**. Each family's parental cost share is determined by a sliding scale based on family size and income.

Your role in shaping families' expectations of Birth to 3 programming is important. Help us advance families' understanding of the program by communicating this message as you refer children and families. Together, we can work to strengthen parents' capacities to promote their child's development.

Sincerely,

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program