



Milwaukee County
Birth to 3 
Program

Myth Busters

There are common misconceptions about the Birth to 3 Program in Milwaukee County. Make sure the information you have is correct! Following are the top myths and corresponding facts about Birth to 3 and how early intervention can positively impact the life of your child.

Myth: My child must have severe challenges to qualify for services.

Fact: Children qualify under many different circumstances. To be eligible for the Birth to 3 Program, children qualify with 25% or greater delay, diagnosis, or atypical development.

Myth: Enrolling my child in the Birth to 3 Program will have a significant impact on their future health records, and schools and scholarship programs will see that my child has a disability record.

Fact: Records for early intervention services are kept for up to seven years of being in the program or when your child turns 19 years old. Early intervention records are only released at your request.

Myth: Once I enroll my child in an early intervention program, my child will be stuck in special education service programs for the rest of their life.

Fact: Some families worry about participating in early intervention because they don't want their child to be "labeled" when they enter school. Children receive services for different lengths of time, depending on what they need. Some children participate for a short time to address a temporary delay in development. Other children may require follow-up special education services once they enter school.

Myth: Early intervention will cost me so much money, and I cannot afford it.

Fact: Birth to 3 is one the most cost-effective programs available for your child. Screening, evaluation, development of the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and service coordination are at no cost to families whose child is eligible for services. With your consent, services are billed under your health insurance, and a cost share is determined based on your income.



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Myth: My work schedule and family lifestyle is too hectic to be involved with services at home.

Fact: The Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) process is a collaborative partnership between the family and the early intervention professionals, so the IFSP will summarize the decisions made to support the child's development. How often and length of time services will be provided are decided by both the family and early interventionists. If at any time your plans change, you may communicate that with your service coordinator and early interventionists to make adjustments.

Myth: I do not have the ability or the knowledge to do what the early interventionist has coached me on, and I do not believe that I can do what they ask of me to help my child.

Fact: The early interventionist will work directly with the family and may demonstrate activities and strategies with the child and provide information on the child's development. Activities are based on the goals the family and the team develop together on the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). The early interventionist will discuss goals and strategies at each session. If there is concern, families are encouraged to reach out to the early interventionist for assistance and answer any questions.

