



Dear Parent,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the current status of the Birth to 3 Program in Waukesha County. I would first like to state that the Birth to 3 Program in Waukesha County is committed to supporting families with children under the age of three with developmental delays and disabilities. Our Birth to 3 Program's intent is to support your family by providing suggestions and strategies that you can implement in your home or out in the community that will help your child develop and grow in their ability to participate in daily routines and activities.

The Birth to 3 Program in Waukesha County provides support for the entire family through education about your child's development, and assistance in recognizing and understanding the best ways to interact with your child. We identify your child's areas of need, but focus primarily on ways we can assist you, as the parent or caregiver in adapting a routine or activity to maximize their child's ability to participate and learn.

We utilize a Parent Support Model to support our B-3 families. We provide support to parents/caregivers through:

1. Evaluation and Assessment - obtaining a developmental baseline for your child and providing developmental information to your family.
2. Consultation and Coaching - Primary Service Provider: One discipline takes the lead in coaching your family. The primary service provider acts as the representative for the multiple disciplines on the team, working closely with them to ensure all needed supports and resources are available to the family.

We provide Resource Identification to ensure that your family has knowledge and information to access resources that may contribute to your family's well-being. This includes but is not limited to:

Human Services Center  
500 Riverview Avenue  
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188-3632  
Phone: (262) 548-7212 • Fax: (262) 548-7643  
TTY: (262) 548-7311 • Voice Relay: 1-800-947-6644  
E-mail: [dhhs@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:dhhs@waukeshacounty.gov)

1. Providing support to your family through everyday learning opportunities (which are embedded in routines).
2. Working with you to help your child with broad developmental foundations in:
  - a. Attachment, security, and engagement so that your child develops positive social and emotion skills (i.e. has a good ability to relate to others; responds to your efforts to comfort them).
  - b. Exploration, so that your child uses appropriate behaviors to meet their needs (i.e. moving toward a desired toy; reaching for a snack).
  - c. Communication, so that your child acquires and uses knowledge including the desire and intent to communicate with others.

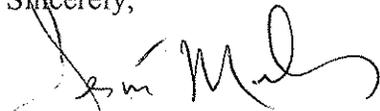
In order to build strong parent-child relationships that will foster development we focus on:

1. Parent-child interaction. Young children learn by interacting and relating to others. By helping parents and caregivers reflect on how they are interacting with their child and the response that results from that, we can tailor our actions to further support and encourage your child's participation. Increased participation then leads to increased opportunity to develop new skills.
2. Everyday learning opportunities. We know children learn best through participation, and they learn specific skills and "situation-specific experiences where they are interacting with people and the environment". Those "situation-specific experiences" occur in the home and out in the community. We want to help your child learn skills within the activities that they are already doing (getting diaper changes, eating, playing with a sibling), and by participating in community activities that the family likes to do (going to the zoo or the library, visiting Grandma). So, children are constantly involved in self care, play, and community activities, so their opportunities to learn, are happening all the time.

Finally, we provide support by utilizing evidence-based practices. It is imperative that we make sound decisions on how we work with your family. Our decisions need to be grounded in research that provides evidence of effectiveness. Based on the research, we know children learn best in their natural environment and by interacting with the people who care for them. Our model integrates both of those ideals, and puts the focus of learning on the parent and caregiver, who will in the long run make the biggest difference in the quality of their child's participation in life.

In summary, we are committed to providing you and your family with the tools and resources that will enable you to meet the needs of your child now and in the future. We believe this is the best way of servicing you and your family. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact Linda Wetzel at (262) 548-7333.

Sincerely,



Jesús Mireles  
Waukesha County Health and Human Services  
Children and Family Division Manager

Cc: Missy Kueht-Becker, LSS B-3 Program Coordinator  
Linda Wetzel, LSS B-3 Program Manager  
Sarah Hotchkiss, Executive Director for Children, Youth & Family Services  
Ken Prust, Executive Director for Children, Youth & Family Services  
Don Maurer, Deputy Director  
Peter Schuler, Director