

## **Birth to 3 Video Transcript**

Hello. My name is Meredith Vitaioli, and I'm a family navigator at the Waisman Center. Today, we are going to talk about the Birth to three program. We are going to answer these questions.

**What is the Birth to three program?**

**Why is the Birth to three program helpful?**

**What else is important to know about the Birth to three program?**

**How do you connect with the birth to three program?**

**Where can you learn more about the Birth to three program?**

First, let's answer the question **what is the birth to three program?**

The Birth to three program is for the youngest children, from birth up to a child's third birthday. The Birth to three program helps you and your child in their early development. Children qualify for services based on delays in development or an already diagnosed disability. The Birth to three program will do an evaluation in your home to see if your child is eligible for services. These evaluations look at all the areas of development, including how your child learns, plays, speaks, acts, and moves. Families hear back if their child is eligible for services from the Birth to three program within about 45 days from the date of referral.

Next, let's talk about **why the Birth to three program is helpful.**

Research shows that early intervention is helpful if your child has developmental concerns. The Birth to three program is a way to get help early on for your child. The Birth to three program uses a team to support children and their families. The team could include your family, a therapist, an early educator, and a service coordinator. One of these team members will be the main person who works with you during home visits. This person is called your primary coach. Other team members will work with the primary coach behind the scenes. Birth to three program staff give families ideas on how to help their child learn in their natural environment, which is often their home. You don't have to be an expert in therapies. They will teach you how to help your child with specific skills.

**What else is important to know about the Birth to three program?**

The Birth to three program offers services in your child's natural environment. This is usually your home, but might include places like a family member's home or daycare, too. Services are personalized to your child. The number or type of visits your child receives may vary from other children in the program. Families are welcome in the Birth to three program. You know your child best, so you are an important part of the team. You will work with the Birth to three

program to create goals that are most important for your child and your family. It's really important for you to let them know what is working and what is not working for your child.

**How do you connect to the Birth to three program?**

Each county has a birth to three program. You can refer your child or a referral can be made by a doctor or someone else who knows your child. Contact information for all Birth to three programs will be provided at the end of this video.

**Finally, where can you learn more?**

Please see the resource links in the video details. All of these resources are available through the QR code on this screen. Thanks so much for joining us and we hope to see you next time.