

Connecticut's Birth to Three System

AN OVERVIEW

Connecticut's Birth to Three System is a support for families who may be worried about their child's development—specifically, whether their child is not meeting certain milestones. Through an evaluation, your Birth to Three team can help answer any questions you have about your concerns and, if eligible, provide specific supports to your child and family. Early Intervention Services and Supports, as identified by IDEA Part C, may include developmental therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology, nutrition, and more.

You have already taken a very important first step by contacting 211 Child Development and scheduling an eligibility evaluation visit for your child with the Birth to Three program that received your referral.

Participation in the Birth to Three System is always voluntary and your consent may be withdrawn at any time. For information about informed consent, confidentiality, and mediation processes, please view the Parent Rights Brochure: www.birth23.org/families/rights

For a list of glossary terms, history of Birth to Three, and other support pieces, please visit: www.birth23.org



What To Expect At Your Evaluation

EVALUATION VISIT OVERVIEW

- The evaluation visit usually takes place in your home if that is where you and your child feel most comfortable, or another community setting of your choice.
- You can choose a day and time that is convenient for you and your family. Think of the best time of day for you and your child when your child is awake and alert.
- At least one parent must be present for the evaluation, but we welcome multiple caregivers to participate.
- Two evaluators from two different disciplines will evaluate your child to determine if there is a significant developmental delay.
- Your Birth to Three team will walk you through the evaluation, step by step. They will engage with and observe your child; ask you questions about your child's history and any concerns you may have; and help you fill out any paperwork.

BEFORE THE EVALUATION

Take some time beforehand to think about:

- your child's prenatal history;
- your child's birth;
- your child's health and developmental history;
- any significant changes in your life or your child's life that may lead to behavior changes;
- when you were first concerned that something might not be quite right;
- and your concerns now.



What To Expect At Your Evaluation

DURING THE EVALUATION



Parent Participation

You are an important part of the evaluation team!

- Help your child feel comfortable during the evaluation visit.
- Help with activities that explore your child's abilities.

The Birth to Three evaluation team will assess five areas of your child's development:

- physical development, such as vision, hearing, movement, and health;
 - communication development, such as pointing, understanding your words, and expressing thoughts;
 - adaptive or self-help development, such as feeding and dressing;
 - cognitive development, such as thinking, learning, and reasoning; and
 - social-emotional development, such as getting along with others, expressing feelings, and developing relationships.
- Tell the team whether or not what they are seeing is typical for your child.
 - Provide truthful and accurate responses to questions about your child's development.
 - Help the team see your child's unique strengths and needs.
 - Ask questions and offer your opinions about how your child's evaluation is going.

AFTER THE EVALUATION

After the evaluation, the team will review the results of completed standardized testing; the information you provide about your child's history and development; and any reports received from medical providers to arrive at an eligibility decision.

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Eligibility

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There are **two** ways to be found eligible:

- your child has a confirmed medical condition that is expected to lead to a developmental delay and therefore is automatically eligible; or
- eligibility evaluation completed by staff from two different professions (e.g., speech therapy and physical therapy) showing significant delay (2 standard deviations below the mean) in one area of development or moderate delay (1.5 standard deviations below the mean) in two areas of development.

The evaluation report will be reviewed with you in your native language, and is not final until you have had a chance to read it and make sure that it is correct.

NOT ELIGIBLE

If your child is not deemed eligible for Birth to Three, there are other resources for you:

- Help Me Grow connects children who are at risk to supports and services.
cdi.211ct.org/program/help-me-grow
- Sparkler is a mobile app that helps you better understand your child's development with the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ); off-screen activities to play together; progress reports; and tips and answers from experts at 211 Child Development or your school/provider.
www.playsparkler.org/ct Use Code: **CTFam**

You may also request another referral at least one month after evaluation.

If you disagree with the results of the Birth to Three eligibility evaluation and this cannot be resolved by talking with the program, there are other ways of resolving disputes:

- File a written complaint.
- Request mediation.

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Eligible? What's Next?



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- After eligibility is determined, you will be assigned a service coordinator who will be your guide as you make connections to community resources.
- Your service coordinator will guide you and your family in developing an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) which will describe the real-life outcomes you want for your child and family.
- The IFSP describes how, where, and when your family will partner with the program staff to reach those outcomes.

SUPPORTS



- Birth to Three is a system of supports for families to help them meet the needs of their infants and toddlers who have disabilities or delays in their development.
- Early Intervention Services and Supports (EIS) foster collaborative partnerships; are family-centered; occur in natural settings where the child typically spends their time; recognize current best practices in early intervention; and are built upon mutual respect and choice.
- Learn more about Birth to Three Supports in Handbook 2: www.birth23.org/files/Families/FamilyHandbookII.pdf

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