



Connecticut
Birth to Three
System

1-800-505-7000
www.birth23.org

Topics for Discussion

Part One

- What is Birth to Three?
- How is it funded?
- Who can refer? How?
- What are the eligibility criteria?
- How does it all happen?

What is Birth to Three?

- A system of supports for families to help them meet the needs of their infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities
- Part C of a federal law called the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, and state law §17a-248
- In Connecticut, the Department of Developmental Services is the lead agency that administers the Birth to Three System.
- 40 Birth to Three programs provide supports and services. Each program serves a specific set of towns.

Funding Sources

- State of Connecticut
- U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- Private insurance reimbursements
- Parent sliding fee scale

Birth to Three is a federal entitlement because EARLY intervention works best.

Public Awareness

Anyone can refer a child who is younger than 3 years old when they are concerned about a developmental delay.

– Primary referral sources include:

- Hospitals, NICUs,
- Physicians, audiologists, geneticists, APRNs
- Parents
- Child care programs and early learning programs
- LEAs and schools
- Public health clinics
- Social service agencies
- Public agencies and staff in the child welfare system
- Homeless or domestic violence shelters and agencies

Only the Parent can give consent to proceed with the referral.

Child Find

C.F.R. 60244, Subpart D, Section 303.302, Child Find must include:

- A system for making referrals
- Ensures rigorous standards for appropriately identifying infants and toddlers with disabilities as defined in 303.21
 - Experiencing a developmental delay, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, or
 - Have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay, such as a chromosomal abnormality, sensory impairment, or **lead poisoning**

Referral System

Child Development Infoline (CDI) is the single point of entry to Birth to Three statewide.

Three ways to make a referral:

- **1-800-505-7000**
- **www.birth23.org/referrals**
- **fax referral form to CDI**

Includes use of TTY and Language Line phone interpretation services

Eligibility

C.G.S. 17a248 “Eligible children” means children from birth to thirty-six months of age who need early intervention services because such children are:

1. *Experiencing a significant developmental delay in one or more of the following areas:*

1. Cognitive development
2. Physical development, including motor, vision, hearing
3. Communication development
4. Social or emotional development
5. Adaptive skills

(total of 89% in FY13)

OR

2. *Diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.* (11% in FY13)

Step by Step System Guide

1. Public Awareness leads to identification of a child with possible developmental delays or an established condition

Screening tools are used by pediatricians and others

- Developmental screening: Ages & Stages Questionnaires
- Autism screening: M-CHAT
- Universal newborn hearing screening
- Universal lead screening

2. Child is referred to Birth to Three. Child Development Infoline records the information and contacts the parent to offer a FREE developmental evaluation. If the parent accepts, the referral is sent to a Program serving the family's town.

Step by Step System Guide

(continued)

3. The Birth to Three Program assigns a service coordinator. Two professionals complete a multidisciplinary evaluation of the child in their home. They assess the child and family and discuss the parents' concerns, priorities, routines and resources.
 - Parents of eligible children are offered supports to reach their objectives for their child and family.
 - If child is not eligible, family is offered other resources and developmental monitoring with ASQ. Encouraged to call again in 90 days if still concerned.
4. Parents who choose to enroll develop a plan of early intervention services called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The child's primary health provider must sign the plan.

Step by Step System Guide

(continued)

5. Early intervention staff coach parents and caregivers on how to infuse learning skills during regular daily routines in the child's home or early care setting. Strategies are modified to meet learning objectives and the IFSP is reviewed at least every six months.

Healthy Homes are important for good development.

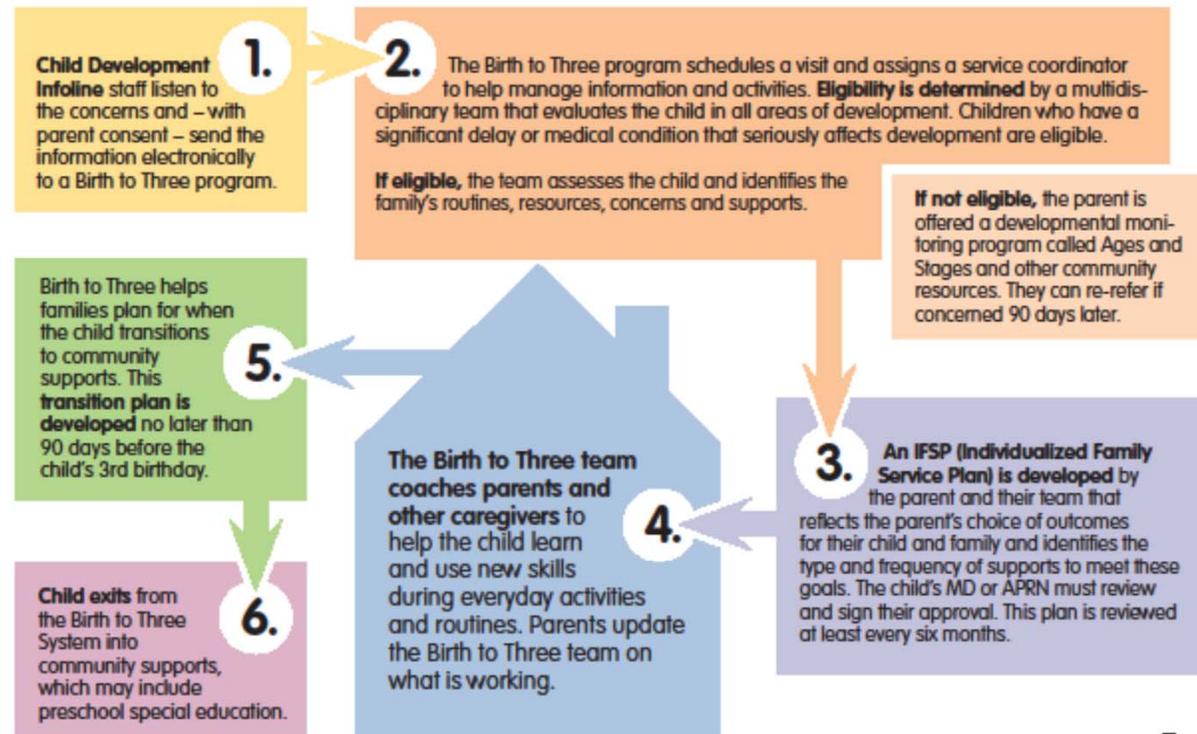
6. Since Birth to Three services must end by the child's third birthday, the service coordinator supports the family in planning for transition to community supports, including early childhood special education



Supporting families every step of the way.

Step by Step Guide to the Connecticut Birth to Three System

When there is a concern about an infant or toddler's development, the parent, physician, or other caregiver **makes a referral**.



Referrals: 1-800-505-7000
www.birth23.org
11-12-13



Questions?

Continuing the Discussion

Part Two

- B23 staff
- Working together
- MOA for Child Find
- Letters to Parents
- Your Role

B23 Providers

- Service Coordinator, who is also a direct service provider**
- Speech and language pathologists**
- Educators**
- Occupational therapists**
- Physical therapists**
- Social workers and counselors**
- Audiologists**
- Applied behavior analysts**

and others who coach the family on how to teach their child new skills during regular daily routines.

Lead Exposure Staff Training

Service Coordinators are professionals with expertise in their discipline, e.g. physical therapy.

- All service coordinators must complete four days of training in how best to support families of eligible children in their homes. Lead exposure is a specific topic that is addressed.

Program directors and service coordinators receive information on the hazards of lead poisoning and where to direct their families for more information.

Collaboration

DPH and Birth to Three

- jointly developed health district notification to parents
- jointly developed Birth to Three staff training content
- Birth to Three participates in annual lead conferences
- DPH provides aggregate data and literature updates
- DPH petitioned Birth to Three to lower the lead exposure level that confers automatic eligibility
 - 45 ug/dL in 1996
 - **25 ug/dL effective 2013**

Memorandum of Agreement

Effective July, 2013

Child Find

Specifically requires DPH to report personal health information for children who meet automatic eligibility due to a BLL of **25 ug/dL or greater**

The benefit of enhanced access to services exceeds the need to protect confidentiality under HIPAA.

MOU Child Find Process

- DPH reports monthly to Birth to Three
 - Child name, dob
 - Maternal name and address
 - BLL, draw date
 - Health district
- Child Find Coordinator matches PHI with B23 roster to learn the child's status
 - Look for referral status and enrollment status
- If child is not enrolled, parent is mailed a letter telling them to call for a free evaluation and services

Child Status in B23

- **Contact:** someone contacted CDI to make a referral, but the Parent could not be reached, or declined
- **Referred:** someone contacted CDI to make a referral and the Parent accepted the evaluation
- **Enrolled:** Parent accepted the evaluation, child was determined eligible, and the Parent accepted B23 services

Data Match Scenarios

Best to Worst Child Find outcomes:

- Referred and Enrolled = **Yes!**
 - Email sent to B23 program with lead data so they may address this with the family
- Referred = **Yes** Enrolled = **No**
 - Letter sent to mother informing her of child's automatic eligibility for services and provides intake office toll-free phone number (English and Spanish)
- Referred = **No** Enrolled = (not possible)
 - Letter sent to mother informing her of child's automatic eligibility for services
 - B23 reports to DPH

2013 Data Match Outcomes

	# children reported	# Health Districts	# Health Departments	Contacts to B23	Referrals	Children enrolled
July 2013	8	1	6	4	3	1
August	3	1	2	1	1	1
Sept	5	1	4	1	1	0
Oct	3	0	3	0	0	0
Nov	3	1	2	0	0	0
Dec	1	0	1	0	0	0
totals	23	(4) 4 Districts in 6 mo.; 0 Districts with >1 child	(18) 10 LHDs in 6 mo.; 5 LHDs. with >1 child	6	5	2

Letters to Parents

All mothers whose children were not enrolled were mailed a letter about Birth to Three

- Post-letter data matches revealed Zero positive referrals or enrollments
- No positive effect of the parent letter on acceptance of Birth to Three

Reviewed content, simplified message

- 2013: “Lead harms children’s development”
- 2014: “Lead is bad for children’s bodies and brains.”

Direct Outreach

Home inspection visits offer an important opportunity for a direct conversation with the parent.

You are an important connection between families and Birth to Three.

Please give the family the Birth to Three #

- Ask them to call while you are there
- Tell them it is important for their child

Message to Parents

1-800-505-7000

www.birth23.org

The evaluation is:

- Quick: about one hour
- Easy: B23 comes to their home
- Fun: looks like “play”
- Valuable: Learn how to help their child succeed
- **FREE**

Questions?

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