



What is Child Find?

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities designed to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who may be in need of early intervention programs or special education as early as possible. Child Find activities may include screening. Screening children provides parents and professionals with information on whether a child's development is similar to children of the same age. In Wisconsin, children from birth to 3 years of age may qualify for early intervention programs, which are operated by local Birth to 3 Programs. Children ages 3 to 21 may qualify for special education provided by local school districts.

Why is Child Find necessary?

The purpose of Child Find for children birth to age 21 is to ensure that all children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education, including special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

Who is covered by Child Find?

Wisconsin Child Find applies to all children who reside within the state. This includes infants; toddlers; preschoolers; children in private, public, or tribal schools; highly mobile, homeless, or migrant children; home schooled children; and wards of the state.

What do I do if I suspect a child has a disability?

For a child from **birth to age 3**, contact the local Birth to 3 Program.

For a child **age 3 to 21**, contact the local school district.

Early Childhood Child Find Resources

Collaborating Partners
<http://www.collaboratingpartners.com>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3>

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/early-childhood/child-find>

Wisconsin CESA Early Childhood Contacts
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/ecse-indicators-projects-contacts.pdf>

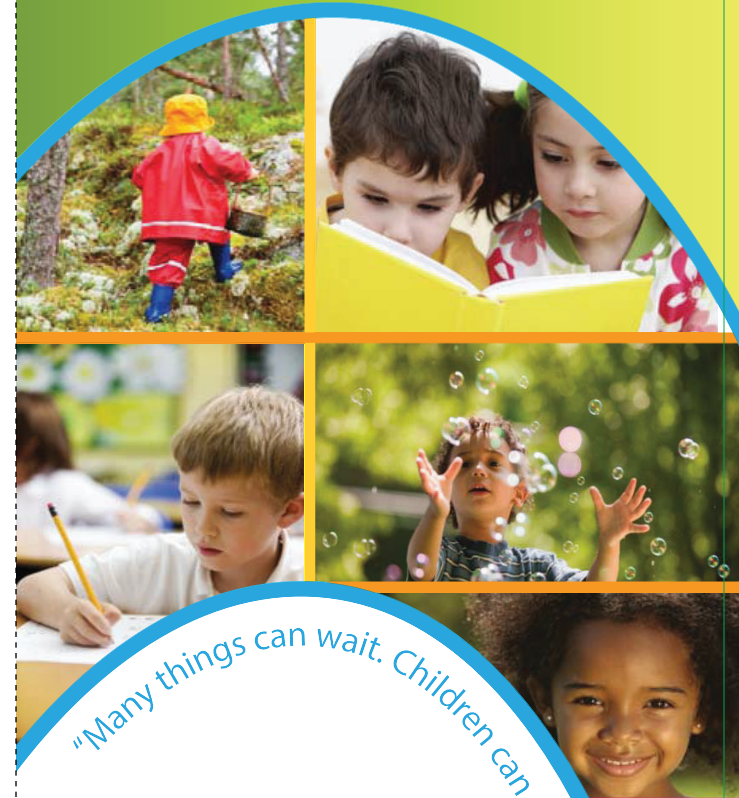
Act Early Wisconsin
<http://www.actearly.wisc.edu>

Wisconsin First Step 24 Hour Helpline
<http://www.mch-hotlines.org/wisconsin-first-step>
1-800-642-7837

If you have further questions, contact:

Insert your local school district contact information here.

The Early Childhood Child Find Statewide Coordination Grant (CFDA #84.173) acknowledges the support of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in the development of this brochure and for the continued support of this federally-funded grant project. There are no copyright restrictions on this document; however, please credit the Wisconsin DPI and support of federal funds when copying all or part of this material. Revised February 2017.



"Many things can wait. Children can not." - Gabriela Mistral





Milestones

3

YEARS

Children are learning to do more things for themselves, helping them feel independent. They love to explore words, language, and enjoy making up stories. Three-year-olds very actively explore the world about them and are eager to please their parents. It's an ideal time to establish lifelong habits.

Social and Emotional

- Cooperates with adult requests most of the time
- Waits 3-5 minutes to get needs met
- Plays with 1-3 children, sharing materials
- Separates easily from parents

Cognition and General Knowledge

- Sorts objects by color and shape
- Points to basic body parts
- Matches an object to a picture in a book
- Begins to understand the concepts of 1, 2, and 3

Language and Communication

- Follows a one- or two-step direction
- Recognizes and identifies common objects
- Uses sentence length of 3-4 words, with errors
- Speech is understood most of the time

Movement

- Jumps with two feet
- Begins to throw, catch, and kick a ball
- Runs without falling
- Begins to pedal a tricycle

Hand and Finger Skills

- Turns book pages one at a time
- Begins to use a variety of writing tools and draws
- Dresses and undresses self with some assistance
- Uses spoon, fork, cup and begins to serve self



Milestones

4

YEARS

During this year your child will improve skills and develop new ones. Providing plenty of time for physical activity, especially outdoors, is a good way to prevent children from getting bored and acting out. Let children dress up and pretend to be a firefighter, a teacher, etc. It's play that children learn best.

Social and Emotional

- Able to resolve minor conflicts
- Willingly tries new experiences
- Participates in dramatic play with 3-4 children
- Carries out routine activities with some help

Cognition and General Knowledge

- Correctly names primary colors
- Understands "same" and "different"
- Recalls parts of a story
- Understands counting and some numbers

Language and Communication

- Follows a three-step direction
- Tells stories or experiences with a sequence
- Uses sentence length of 4-6 words
- Speech is generally understood

Movement

- Catches a ball
- Kicks and throws a ball with control
- Hops and stands on one foot up to 5 seconds
- Goes up and down stairs without support

Hand and Finger Skills

- Draws circles and squares
- Begins to copy some letters in name
- Begins to use scissors
- Dresses self without supervision



Milestones

5

YEARS

The world of a five-year-old is cheerful, energetic, and enthusiastic. Children enjoy planning and spend a great deal of time discussing who will do what. They enjoy dramatic play and are able to share toys and materials with other children. Five-year-olds are more sensitive to the needs and feelings of others around them.

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This Child Find brochure is designed to give parents and caregivers an overview of developmental milestones for children ages 3 through 5. It provides a general idea of the changes that can be expected as your child grows. Because children develop at their own pace, it's impossible to tell exactly when a child will learn a given skill. Learning opportunities should reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of children and families. If you have questions about your child's development, please contact your local school district.