



# B3 Connections

Waukesha County Birth to 3

Fall Issue

October 2010

## Program Connection

Welcome to the first publication of the B3 Connections newsletter! Our desire to provide timely and updated information to families is now a reality with the launch of the new website and this newsletter publication.

The newsletter will be published three times per year (Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer) and is meant to give you some insight into the staff and families that make up this program. The website will be updated monthly and provide timely information on the classes we offer, how to contact staff, and resources you may find helpful. Please feel free to explore, and let us know if you have any suggestions.



Our Fall issue of the newsletter is devoted to helping you understand who we are. What makes up the LSS/Waukesha County Birth to Three Program? Included are articles from staff intended to help you understand our different roles and how we, as a team, work together, along with you and your family, to offer support, services, and, resources. Our goal is to have a positive impact on your family's life and to assist in supporting you to facilitate your child's participation in day-to-day activities.

We know from both experience and research that children learn best by participating in those day-to-day activities. Children learn the power of communication when Mom and Dad respond to their cries and giggles; they learn to move when they really want some thing; and they learn to share by playing with other children. By supporting you, through conversation and modeling (showing you and talking about different strategies that might be helpful) we work with you to share experiences, reflect on what works and doesn't work, and problem solve those things that are not working well. This way, we ensure that you, as a parent, will have many positive impacts on the growth and development of your child. We have many opportunities available through the LSS/Waukesha County Birth to Three Program. Please join us.

## Parent Connection

Do you have a story to share? We have made space in our newsletter for parents and caregivers to share information, success stories, tricks, and resources. If you would like to contribute, please contact your service coordinator.

We want all parents and caregivers to be aware of the LSS/Waukesha County Birth to Three Program collaboration with the Waukesha Family YMCA. The two agencies have partnered to provide an adaptive gymnastics class. The class meets on Thursday mornings from 9-10 and is a semi-structured class that gives kids, parents, and caregivers a chance to meet, sing songs during a short circle time, and experience movement among the bolsters, ramps, large mats, and trampoline. Children of all abilities are welcome. The class is staffed with a YMCA teacher and a physical therapist from the Birth to Three Program.

### Special Points of Interest:

- Love & Logic & Autism Page 4
- Call Parents Place at 262 549 5575 to enroll in their fall and winter Love and Logic classes
- Mondays 6-7:30 PM November 1-29
- Mondays 6-7:30 PM January 3-31
- Tuesdays 6-7:30 PM March 1-29

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# Education Connection

One of the members of your child's team is the Early Childhood Educator. She has a degree in special education and a DPI license to work with the Birth to Three population. If your child qualifies for services, the educator on the team will provide expertise in the areas of communication, cognition and social development as well as help you monitor your child's overall development. Information that is gathered through parent interview, assessment, and evaluation helps to identify the needs and priorities of the family.



Examples of areas the educator would look at include:

### Playing and learning

- maintaining attention to pictures in a book and identifying pictures upon request
- engaging in pretend play
- playing with toys according to their function
- following directions

### Participation in daily living skills

- eating and drinking
- sleeping
- toilet training
- dressing/undressing

### Interaction with others and his/her environment

- playing alone and playing next to other children
- playing simple games such as peek-a-boo or singing songs with an adult
- engaging in turn taking activities
- giving eye contact and showing interest in others by bringing toys/objects to share



The educator would assist you in working toward your identified IFSP outcomes through everyday learning opportunities. Do you want your child to learn to take turns? Perhaps you will practice rolling a ball back and forth. Is your child not yet engaging in pretend play? Let's make a cake in the sandbox. Do they have a hard time following directions? Maybe you will choose to play a game of freeze. The possibilities are endless!

# Communication Connection

Communication for very young children consists of many different skills. These skills include cries, coos, eye contact, babbling, jargon, and gestures. These are the building blocks to becoming a more efficient communicator with words, phrases, and eventually sentences. For various reasons, some children need extra assistance in learning these skills.

Speech Language Pathologists (SLP), along with the help of the child's family, identify communication needs through evaluation and assessment. If the child qualifies for birth to three services, the SLP is part of the team to help the family learn to encourage communication development within their daily activities.

Once communication needs are identified and a child is found to be eligible, intervention options will be discussed. One option is our "Let's Talk" program for parents (adapted from the Hanan Centre's program "It Takes Two to Talk"). These classes are lead by birth to three SLPs with Hanan Certification.

"Let's Talk" is a fun, interactive program for parents of children who are delayed in their speech and language development. Both parents and significant care providers are encouraged to attend class sessions and participate in home visits. Through a variety of activities and group discussions, parents learn to create opportunities and take advantage of daily activities to help their child communicate. The program discusses how and why children communicate, different stages of communication, and communication styles. This information combined with individualized strategies have been found to enhance communication skills in many of the children seen in our program. Feedback from parents who have taken the class has been very positive.

Parents are the most important people in a child's life. "Let's Talk" supports parents and their children with this important stage in their development.



**"Communication works for those who work at it."**



## PT/OT Connection

Intervention by both Physical and Occupational Therapists focuses on collaborating with parents and caregivers to identify child and family strengths, adapt environments, learn about interaction styles, and use play to promote your child's participation and independence within their environment.

Children learn best by doing: moving around and participating in life with those they know and love. A Physical and Occupational Therapists on the team will focus on movement and how the body takes in information.

A Physical Therapist may evaluate your child, and look to see how they are moving through their environment. Some of the skills

they look at include: rolling, sitting, crawling, and walking. Within these skills, they also



look at the quality of movement. The Physical Therapist may also address, as appropriate, your child's need for braces or other equipment that will assist them in moving

through their environment as independently as possible.

An Occupational Therapist may evaluate your child and focus on how your child receives, processes, and learns information from their sensory system and how they use it to participate in everyday activities. They also look at the quality of a child's skills including motor planning, oral motor skills during feeding, eye hand coordination when playing with toys, and attending to or concentrating on an activity. An Occupational Therapist may also address a child's need for adaptive equipment which will assist them in becoming as independent as possible in all their daily activities.

## Service Coordination Connection

When your child is eligible for the Birth to Three program, he or she will have a team of specialists consisting of a Speech Therapist, Early Childhood Educator, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, and Service Coordinator. They are involved in planning, serving, and monitoring your child and family's progress. The team meets every week to discuss successes and challenges that families may have. One team member will become your primary provider and home visitor. They have the support of all other team members. When appropriate, other team members may visit your family with the primary provider to provide intervention services.

The Service Coordinator (SC) comes to you and your child for an intake visit. The purpose of the initial visit is to gather information about your child's history and your family's concerns and needs. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is used to help determine if an evaluation should be done at that point in

time or if it would be better to wait a while to evaluate. If it is determined that the evaluation should occur at that time, the information and concerns gathered will be taken to the next team meeting and presented to the group for evaluation assignment. The SC will arrange the evaluation with your family and attend the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting to record your concerns and the agreed upon plan. On an ongoing basis, the SC monitors your child and family progress and maintains your child's records. The SC also schedules and participates in follow up IFSP meetings.

**“The Service Coordinator is your coach on the journey to becoming a strong self advocate for your child and family. “**

The SC is your coach on the journey to becoming a strong self advocate for your child and family. You, the parents, know your child and family's unique qualities and needs better than



anyone else. The SC will help you look at your personal situation from a variety of angles to discover appropriate supports and solutions. The SC will direct you to resources and opportunities that may be of value to your family. They can help you understand and work with organizations that impact your child and family.

## Waukesha County Birth to 3

LSS/Waukesha County Birth to Three Program  
500 Riverview Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186

To Make a Referral:

Phone: 262-548-7212

Fax: 262-896-8367

For Program Information:

Phone: 262-896-6880

Fax: 262-896-6897

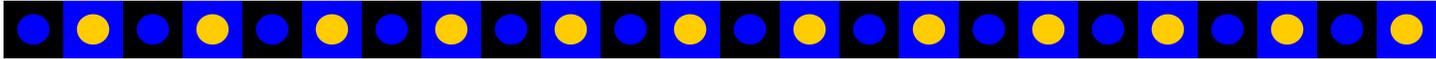
E-mail: lwetzel@lsswis.org



Lutheran Social services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) is the contract agency for Waukesha County that administers the Birth to Three Program, Wisconsin's early intervention program. The program provides services to families with children age birth to three that have been identified as having a 25% or more delay in one or more areas of development or an eligible diagnosed condition according to the criteria established by the Federal Government and the State of Wisconsin.

The LSS/Waukesha County Birth to Three Program is a "family-centered" program that recognizes the importance of parents, family, and friends in a young child's life. Services and supports are based on meeting the developmental needs of the eligible child and the family. This occurs by supporting the parents and primary caregivers to adapt activities so that child participation is maximized and to provide strategies that facilitate the child's developmental growth.

Please see the phone and fax numbers listed to the left for further information or to make a referral to the program.



## Resources: Love and Logic — Dr. Charles Fay

*Dear Insider's Club Member,*

I'm often asked if Love and Logic applies to children with autism. For years, we've been hearing success stories from parents and professionals indicating the answer to this question:

Yes. While it doesn't solve all of the child's problems, Love and Logic really helps.

I'd like to share a relevant and much unexpected experience I had bicycling home from work one day. While I was peddling down a peaceful pedestrian-only path, a woman in a minivan jumped the curb, screeched to a halt in front of me, and screamed, "I've lost my child! He's autistic and he ran away from us at the pool! Have you seen him?"

Of course I agreed to help her look for the boy. As I did, she warned, "He's 13; he's really big, and you won't be able to get him to come with you."

About two miles down the path, there he was. Yes, he was very big, and very agitated! I decided to use one of my favorite Love and Logic techniques, *The One-Sentence Intervention*.

I said to him, "Look at that watch." He suddenly stopped and raised his arm to show me his Batman time piece. I countered with, "And I noticed that your shirt has a motorcycle on it." He looked at his shirt. "And I heard you like to swim," I continued. He stared at me with a combination smile and "what-planet-are-you-from?" look.

In our book, *Teaching with Love and Logic*, we teach that relationships are the key to reaching challenging kids. The One-Sentence Intervention involves noticing unique and special things about children.

After noticing these small things about the boy, I said, "Just follow me. I'll take care of you." To my amazement, he followed me all the way back to his mother.

This boy gave me a great gift. He reminded me that kids are human beings not diagnoses. He also reminded me that each of them has the fundamental human need to feel noticed and valued.

Thanks for reading! Our goal is to help as many families as possible. If this is a benefit, forward it to a friend.

Dr. Charles Fay

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