

### What is Child Find?

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening, and evaluation designed to locate, identify, and refer all young children with disabilities and their families who may be in need of early intervention programs or special education as early as possible. 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?

Screening all children provides parents and professionals with information on whether a child's development is similar to children of the same age. The purpose of Child Find for children ages birth to 21 is to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to 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?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all states to have policies and procedures in effect to ensure that all children who are in need of special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated. 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 school children, and wards of the state.

### Who makes a Child Find referral?

Anyone can make a referral.

Children from **birth to 3** should be referred to local Birth to 3 Programs.

Children from **3 to 21** should be referred to local school districts.

## Child Find Resources

Collaborating Partners

[www.collaboratingpartners.com](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

[www.ec.dpi.wi.gov/ec\\_eccfpage](http://www.ec.dpi.wi.gov/ec_eccfpage)

Wisconsin CESA

Early Childhood Contacts

[www.dpi.wi.gov/ec/ecbycesa.html](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/ec/ecbycesa.html)

Wisconsin Act Early

[www.actearly.wisc.edu](http://www.actearly.wisc.edu)

Wisconsin First Step 24 Hour Helpline

[www.mch-hotlines.org](http://www.mch-hotlines.org)  
1-800-642-7837

**If you have further questions contact:**

**Stoughton Area School District**  
320 North Street  
Stoughton, WI 535389  
(608) 877-5403

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"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 1- or 2-step direction(s)
- Recognizes and identifies common objects
- Uses sentence length of 3-4 words, with errors
- Speech is understood most of the time

### Movement

- Jumps with 2 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 through 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 3-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 1 foot up to 5 seconds
- Goes up and down stairs without support

### Hand and Fingers 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.

### Social and Emotional

- Plans and negotiates situations with 3-5 children
- Likes to sing, dance, and act
- Participates in games with peers
- Works cooperatively toward a common goal

### Cognition and General Knowledge

- Names colors and shapes
- Names body parts
- Counts 10 or more objects
- Recognizes some letters of the alphabet

### Language and Communication

- Can converse using complete sentences
- Expresses ideas and feelings
- Uses sentence length of more than 6 words
- Answers questions how, when, and why

### Movement

- Throws, kicks, and catches a ball with accuracy
- Swings and climbs on playground equipment
- Stands and hops easily on 1 foot
- Walks down stairs carrying an object

### Hand and Fingers Skills

- Draws a person with body
- Prints some letters independently
- Cuts simple shapes
- Completes self-care skills independently

This Child Find brochure is designed to give parents and caregivers an overview of developmental milestones. 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.