



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pierce County Public Health Marks Completion of Pilot Innovation Grant to Support the Social and Emotional Development of Children Under Age 3

In a virtual conference hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services on Tuesday, April 12, Pierce County's Birth to 3 Program presented the results of a project designed to support childhood social and emotional development. Pierce County Public Health was one of fifteen local areas selected through a highly competitive application process statewide to pilot new approaches to improve the social and emotional well-being of children with delays or disabilities and their families.

Pierce County Public Health's innovation grant, implemented during 2020 and 2021, focused on a systems-improvement approach, which included training for staff and partners, increased coordination with Pierce County Human Services, and improved screening and referral for services for parents struggling with mental health. The project focused most intensively on families who had experienced trauma. The Pierce County Birth to 3 program saw real results during implementation; the percent of children who demonstrated improvement in their social-emotional scores increased from 57.5% before the intervention to 75% after the intervention. Additionally, staff reported trainings provided through the program helped them build parents' skills and confidence:

"We are able to use the [training] to access evidence-based information to share, show the parents how to utilize these skills, and then watch them complete these skills. This has allowed the parent to become the 'star of the show' and feel equipped and confident in parenting their child," said one Pierce County Human Services staff member.

"Implementing this grant during COVID-19 has been a bright spot for Public Health. This grant provided us with an opportunity to provide new tools to parents to become their own child's best advocate and teacher. Now that our team is trained, Pierce County Birth to 3 is committed to continuing to support the social and emotional health of young children," said Lisa Olson, Pierce County Early Intervention Lead.

Pierce County Birth to 3 partnered with the Child Abuse Prevention Board, Pierce County Human Services, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, United Way St. Croix Valley, Dr. Amber Morgan from M Health Fairview, St. Croix Therapy and the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley on this work.

TALK TO US

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OUR MISSION

To promote healthy behaviors, prevent disease and injury, and protect against environmental hazards



The Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention program provided by counties to support children under the age of three who have developmental delays or disabilities. By sharing the successes and challenges associated with the pilot, Pierce County had the opportunity to help other local areas throughout the state learn from experience and think about how to enhance our state Early Intervention programs and improve outcomes for children and families.

Families interested in [Birth to 3 services](#) in Pierce County can learn more by calling 715-273-2096 or emailing birthto3@co.pierce.wi.us.

END



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