



## An Incredible Journey with Easterseals

"1-2-3: GO!" is a chant often heard in three-year-old Journey's house as she and her brother, Ryder, race around the house in their ride-on cars. For some parents this may sound peculiar, but for Journey's family, it's witnessing a bonding moment between siblings.

When Journey was born prematurely, her parents, Patrice and Rich, knew they had a journey ahead of them - the inspiration for her name. When Journey was diagnosed with a rare brain disorder, they realized their journey would not be the one they expected. Fortunately, they found a team of therapists at Easterseals and knew they were not alone.

"It was terrifying at the beginning, but once we had a diagnosis, we hit the ground running to find ways to help her," Patrice says. "You can tell Easterseals therapists love what they do and it shows in the way they care about the people they work with. They help Journey be the best she can be."

Initially, Journey worked on milestones such as holding her head up and grasping items. Now she is working on sitting up for longer periods of time, crawling and using a walker. When Journey was two, a modified, ride-on car was incorporated into her therapy goals. Easterseals uses the "GoBabyGo!" cars to encourage mobility and independence. For Journey, it forged an irreplaceable bond with her brother.

"Journey loved it! They thought of everything and modified it just for her," says Patrice. "The fact that Ryder had a car, too, made it even better. It put her on the same level as Ryder. Easterseals changed our lives for the better."

Easterseals offers a range of services, including children's therapies, assistive technology, day programs for adults with physical or intellectual disabilities and respite services for caregivers. To learn more about how Easterseals helps children and adults with disabilities, call [1-800-677-3800](tel:1-800-677-3800) or visit [www.de.easterseals.com](http://www.de.easterseals.com).