



Easter Seals DuPage & Fox Valley | 830 S. Addison Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181
630.620.4433 | EasterSealsDFVR.org
Villa Park | Naperville | Elgin



8:00AM | Blair

When Blair was three-weeks-old, her pediatrician recognized that she had torticollis – a condition that limits head movement and can impact field of vision and range of motion. Weekly physical therapy is slotted between the naps and feedings of Matt and Marci’s 12-week-old daughter. They learn how to incorporate a series of exercises into play time to help relieve the marble-sized knot in Blair’s neck, and strengthen her head control. In just six weeks she’s gained the ability to turn her head almost completely to the left. As new parents, Matt and Marci credit Easter Seals with calming their worries and setting Blair on a path to reach her milestones.



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11:00AM | Etienne

Five-year-old Etienne will pass through the doors of Easter Seals using his own power wheelchair. This is the culmination of a series of small goals he has been working toward for the past two years. His cerebral palsy impacts his ability to sit, stand and walk independently. Etienne’s therapists work to strengthen his trunk, keep his head straight and relax his body – all so he can steer the wheelchair using a joystick he controls with his wrist. He practices driving down the halls of Easter Seals and is getting more comfortable navigating corners and weaving through crowds. If he breaks his focus, it’s only to flash a huge smile at his mom. Their family is sharing in the joy of Etienne’s newfound independence.



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3:00PM | Abbie

Nine-year-old Abbie has weathered 35 surgeries due to an extremely rare genetic disorder that impacts her physical, behavioral and cognitive abilities. Her parents commute to Easter Seals DuPage & Fox Valley from Chicago multiple times a week for the comprehensive approach to play-based therapies they couldn’t find closer to home. The team at Easter Seals collaborates to address her needs one goal at a time.

Abbie works with her occupational therapist to strengthen her grasp so that she can bring a pretzel to her mouth. This seemingly small motion is a major victory for Abbie who has subsisted on a tube-fed diet of high calorie formula since infancy. By incorporating nutrition services into her therapy schedule, she’s gained weight and is working towards a blended diet. The ability to self-feed even a small amount of food by mouth has allowed her to be more engaged at meal time with her family. She’s also made major gains using an iPad to communicate. With the press of a button, the communication device voices her selection so her family knows if she wants “more” or is “all done.”

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