



# easterseals

## Easter Seals

### Rehabilitation Center

# ECI Monthly news & updates

June|2022

2022 June						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	5 Sing a song about fish. <a href="#">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10M5A...</a>	6 Play with ice cubes on a tray and talk about "cold".	7 Make an obstacle course outside to crawl on over.	8 Play Uppity Daisy and flip upside down.	9 Look through an animal book and make their sounds.	10 Play peek-a-boo with a blanket.
	12 Say "I love you" and practice blowing kisses.	13 Pua-1-3 body parts and practice finding them. "where's your heart?"	14 Splash in the bathtub. Talk about water, wet and bubbles. <a href="#">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ9w...</a>	15 Sing the Walking Waking song.	16 Bang on pots and pans in the kitchen.	17 Read a book about dogs.
	19 Give dad a hug and kiss. Sign "dad".	21 Look for birds in the sky and point talk about the beach.	22 Pass a ball back and forth.	23 Talk about yummy foods. Say "mmmm".	24 Go for a walk and smell the flowers.	25 Run around outside. Say "high" "run".
	26 Taste a new food.	27 Play dress-ups. Put on/off sunglasses.	28 Draw with chalk outside on the sidewalk.	29 Take a picture with dad.	30 Practice the sign of word for help when getting dressed.	31 Visit an aquarium.

Early Communicator Calendar

2022 June						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	5 Pretend to go fishing.	6 Play with ice cubes on a tray and talk about "cold" things.	7 Make an obstacle course outside. "run" through it.	8 Play Uppity Daisy and flip upside down.	9 Look through a book and name the animals.	10 Have a campout in the yard or living room.
	12 Cut out a heart and draw or game things you love on it.	13 Play doctor (talk about body parts).	14 Splash in the bathtub. Talk about water, wet and bubbles.	15 Sing the Walking Waking song. <a href="#">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ9w...</a>	16 Bang on pots and pans in the kitchen. Make up a song.	17 Read a book about dogs.
	19 Give dad a hug and kiss. Sign "dad".	20 Find some sand and put your feet in it. Talk about the beach.	21 Pretend to be a bird.	22 Kick a ball back and forth.	23 Find things that are pink.	24 Go for a walk and smell the flowers.
	26 Make pudding together following the directions.	27 Play dress-ups. Put on/off sunglasses.	28 Draw with chalk outside on the sidewalk.	29 Take a picture with dad.	30 Practice the sign of word for help when getting dressed.	31 Visit an aquarium.

First Words Calendar

2022 June						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	5 Pretend to go fishing.	6 Play with ice cubes on a tray and talk about "cold" things.	7 Make an obstacle course outside. "run" through it.	8 What color shirt are you wearing?	9 Point to actions in a book. (Who is sleeping? Who is eating?)	10 Have a campout in the yard or living room.
	12 Cut out a heart and draw things you love on it.	13 Play doctor. What does a doctor do?	14 How many bath toys do you have? Count them.	15 Sing the Walking Waking song. <a href="#">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ9w...</a>	16 Bang on pots and pans in the kitchen. Make up a song.	17 Read a book about dogs.
	19 Give dad a hug and kiss. Sign "dad".	20 Find some sand and put your feet in it. Talk about the beach.	21 Pretend to be a bird. Where would you go?	22 Kick a ball back and forth.	23 Find things that are pink.	24 Go for a walk and smell the flowers. What color are they?
	26 Make pudding together following the directions.	27 Play dress-ups and make up a story.	28 Draw with chalk outside on the sidewalk.	29 Take a picture with dad.	30 Can you get dressed or undressed? How do you need help with?	31 Visit an aquarium. Are you on, in, under?

Expanding Language Calendar

# Tried & True Tips from a Therapist

by Adrian Hernandez, EIS/SC

## Cheers to YOU, Dad!

To all the special dads in our Easter Seals ECI program, I just want to say thank you and we appreciate you for everything you do. As dads we wake up every day doing whatever it takes to put roofs over our families' heads, clothes on their backs and food on the table. We teach our children the value of hard work, how to be productive citizens, and provide a blue print to be better than average. We focus on teaching our children the value of life and how to love by spending time with them, playing with them, and just listening to them laugh and talk. We discipline with love and positive parenting by showing them how to do things instead of just always telling them "no". It's important to eat together around the table and encourage them because one day we will step aside, allowing them to be the best versions of themselves.

For all the amazing dads in the ECI program that do more than just provide and are a real part of children's lives, we thank you!! We thank you for being willing to learn all the strategies and techniques, for working with all the therapists to juggle busy schedules and most importantly, we thank you all for allowing us to be apart of your child's development.



## ECI dads are IMPORTANT because...

They are the best play partner for their child. ECI Dads engage their child in frolic play, tossing up in the air, spin their child around in circles, swing their child upside down and give the best deep pressure hugs to meet their child's sensory needs. They let their child get messy at meal time and dirty outside on the playground. ECI Dad's are remarkable in their ability to stay calm and love their child through the melt downs. A heartfelt thank you to all our ECI Dads!

-Donna M. Smith,  
OTR

They are present! I love that I see so many more dads being actively involved in the daily care of their children - such as dropping them off and picking them up from daycare and/or attending ECI sessions. Our ECI dads bring another approach and perspective to their child's learning and development. ECI dads are able to do the "hard things" required for their child to learn new skills, and bestow a "can-do" attitude helping them build their confidence and success.

-Suzanne Roewe,  
EIS/SC

There is something extra special about Easter Seals ECI Dads, THEY ARE AMAZING! Thank you for supporting your beautiful children by sticking by them and providing support and unconditional love. It's hard enough being a parent, but you're a true hero when you're there to cheer on your kids and family by taking part in their steps towards making progress.

THANK YOU!  
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

-Kristi Denkele,  
EIS/SC

**Spotlight Story - Eliotte & Adonis**



by Dayna & Ashley

Easter Seals was recommended to us after the discharge of our twins, Eliotte and Adonis. Twins are commonly born early and in most cases premature, but in the case of our twins; they were born at 27 weeks gestation! They spent just under three months, from mid-October to early January, in the NICU and boy was that scary! We were advised to expect delays considering how premature they were and because of all the complications experienced during pregnancy.

They were not hitting monthly milestones, outside of the adjusted age buffer, but that changed after our therapists intervened! By five months actual age (making their age two months adjusted), neither had begun to roll over, support their heads, sit up, grab toys, or do anything past what a newborn would do. Both had a strong side preference and Adonis was a little more stubborn than Eliotte when it came to looking in another direction. They were in and out of hospitals for surgeries, x-rays and testing. As first time parents it was terrifying and overwhelming. Easter Seals supported us whenever they could. It was nice to know that we weren't alone in dealing with all that was going on.



Their initial evaluation showed that we'd all have to do a lot of work to get them on track. Now, at seven months (four months adjusted) they are doing all of that and much more. Our boys love to play and grab at toys and people. They laugh and babble all day long,



constantly grab at their toes, and their current favorite is getting support from mommy and daddy so that they can practice their standing! It's amazing to see them come this far and it's thanks to the care and guidance of the ECI program. The therapists are amazing people who treat our family with so much respect and care. They genuinely care about our boys and we're excited to continue to grow together as they get older.

## Family Engagement



# Thinking Outside the Box

Join us Friday, July 22nd, for a Make-and-Take Workshop at Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. The training will focus on free or near free toy ideas you can make out of cardboard boxes to encourage your child's development. You'll leave with a lot of ideas and a couple toys to take home and try. The workshop is free, but registration is required. Deadline to sign up is Thursday, June 30th.



## 2022 Family Outcomes Surveys

This year 449 ECI families (enrolled in ECI for at least 6 months) were selected at random to receive this year's Family Outcomes Surveys. The feedback families provide through the surveys is important to our ECI program. Responses from the surveys help us identify areas where improvement is needed as well as provides us with overall program satisfaction with services. Last year our program had a return rate of 43% and we would love to reach 50% or higher return rate this year.

Surveys will be emailed to families beginning June 1st. Your child's service coordinator will inform you if your child was selected. The survey link will remain active through July 15, 2022.

If you have any questions about the survey process, please contact your ECI service coordinator or call Easter Seals at 210-614-3911 and ask for Linda Tapia.

## Center Stage PossAbilities Presents...

by Michelle Fleckenstein, MA, CCC-SLP/SC

Center Stage PossAbilities is excited to be back on stage this month to perform, *Lola and the Big Fish*. We often hear the expression, it takes a village, but in this case it's a theater and that theater has been transforming lives and opportunities for people with disabilities.

What started out in the backyard of Leah and Raul Chapa as a home theater production of *Beauty and the Beast* back in 2017 has since evolved into a small community theater company that has put on original plays such as *Beauty in the Bible* at University United Methodist Church in 2018 and *Lion of Judah* at the Magik Theatre in

2019. Their son Julian, who is an Easter Seals ECI Alumni, has always loved to perform and has quite the knack for lighting up a room with his smile and personality.

In 2017, his parents noted there were not local opportunities for children such as Julian to not just be included, but to shine and star in theatrical productions. Julian didn't want to be an afterthought or a special appearance in his school plays. He wanted to be on stage. He wanted to rehearse, take the cues from stage directors, wear the costumes, absorb all the excitement from the crowd, and take his cast bow at the end of a show.



Leah, Julian and Raul Chapa,  
founders of Center Stage PossAbilities.



**Get your tickets!**

There were other teens with special needs who had similar desires to perform and be in the spotlight. The Chapas saw a growing need for Julian to develop and maintain friendships and build a faith-based community of support through his adolescence and into adulthood. "Our goal was friends, faith, fun and fellowship, but God has made it so much more than that," Leah Chapa said.

During COVID when they did not have a facility where they could get together, and most cast members were socially isolated from peers, they found a way to grow in friendship and community with group chats, zoom calls and meet-ups outdoors. As a bonus to the friendships and expression of dramatical and musical talents, all have grown in their social confidence, independence, and communication skills.

The cast members currently are committed to meeting and rehearsing each Saturday in preparation for opening night of *Lola and the Big*

Fish, Friday June 17th at 7:30 pm at UUHMC. Come see and experience the joy that is **Center Stage PossAbilities!**



Is Your Child The  
*next*  
**ECI**  
*SuperStar?*

We'd love to share your child's  
ECI journey!  
If you'd like to be featured in the  
**"ECI Spotlight Story"**  
segment, click below.

I'm a SuperStar!

## COVID-19 Updates

Check our [website](#) periodically for the latest memos from our Executive Director, Linda Tapia, click on the orange alert bar at the top on the page.



If you are in need help accessing resources, please contact your service coordinator. If you are in need of someone to talk to to help cope with the changes revolving around COVID-19, please contact your service coordinator to reach out to our counseling department. They will follow up with you to help in this critical time.

## June Awareness Observations



### Month-Long

- Apert Syndrome (South Carolina declared the month of June, Apert Syndrome awareness month)
- Migraine and Headache
- Hemiplegic Migraine
- Men's Health Month
- PTSD

### Days

- June 1 - International Children's Day
- June 1 - World Hypoparathyroidism Awareness
- June 2 - National Gun Violence
- June 3 - Telehealthcare
- June 4 - International Day of Innocent Children, Victims of Aggression

- June 7 - National Cancer Survivors Day
- June 8 - World Brain Tumor Day
- June 13 - International Albinism
- June 14 - World Blood Donor Day
- June 18 - Autistic Pride Day
- June 19 - World Sickle Cell Day
- June 20 - World Refugee Day
- June 23 - Dravet Syndrome
- June 27 - U.S. National Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Day
- June 29 - Chronic Migraine
- June 29 - World Scleroderma



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**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

*Early Childhood Intervention*

Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center  
is a contracted provider of  
Texas Early Childhood Intervention  
Services and partially funded by  
Texas Health and Human Services.

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