



easterseals

Easter Seals

Rehabilitation Center

ECI Monthly

news & updates

May 2022

2022 May							1st week
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Read a new book today. Sign "book".	2 Practice tapping "ah" down" after meals.	3 Put or point to pictures in books.	4 Note what your child is interested in. Spend time talking about it.	5 Hold your child's point and say "go". Run a short distance to play again?	6 Play "Tickle me". How does your child get you to play again?	7 Teach following the direction "hold still" during diaper changes.
	8 Give "Mom" hugs and kisses. Sign "Mom".	9 Waves "Hi" to a police officer today.	10 Follow directions to turn the lights "off".	11 Make choices during lunch. "Milk or water?"	12 Sing your favorite song by body parts. "On your nose".	13 Put stickers on body parts.	14 Try a new flavor or texture of food today.
	15 Wear a silly hat today and point to other people.	16 Close your eyes and smell your breakfast this morning.	17 Sing Head Shoulders Knees and Toes.	18 Make animal sounds when reading books.	19 Ask your child: "Do you want to eat?" How do they respond?	20 Find some rocks outside. Put them "in" a bucket.	21 Can your child follow directions to give someone a hug?
	22 Talk and hand show what you're doing when you're washing your hands.	23 How many body parts does your child point to? Count it in here.	24 Give a complement today. "You're a funny guy!"	25 Opposite day. Talk about hot and cold or up and down.	26 Blow warts. Play dress up today.	27 Can you help make the bed. Put pillows "on" the bed.	28 Practice blowing into a horn or kazoo.
	29 Put bubble wrap using hands or feet. "Pop".	30 Sign "No" after brushing your teeth.	31 Put neat clothes on backward. Say "hi" or "ho".				

Early Communicator Calendar

2022 May							2nd week
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Read a Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme.	2 Make silly faces in the mirror together.	3 Collect and feel textured objects and talk about how they feel.	4 Sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.	5 Pretend to be an astronaut or find books about them.	6 Play with plastic. Make them "go". Use the sign.	7 Make choices between two items at snack.
	8 Give "Mom" hugs and kisses. Sign "Mom".	9 Make a card for someone (maybe a teacher).	10 Play on a riding toy. Talk about going "fast" and "slow".	11 Blow bubbles and let them pop on your feet.	12 Clean up your toys while saying "Put them in". Use the sign.	13 Read a book about flowers.	14 "Help" "help" like a frog today.
	15 Practice turn taking by passing a car back and forth.	16 Play outside under a tree. Say "Yes".	17 Follow directions when entering the dishwasher. Ex. Get the spoon.	18 Wash the dishes together. Practice "Wash".	19 Get your feet wet. Fill a container with water or make puddles.	20 Find a playground. Observe what you child is interested in.	21 Sing the Pledge. Practice in and out.
	22 Make a musical instrument from recycled materials.	23 What's for lunch? Practice stirring today.	24 Go on a scavenger hunt outside. Your "Go" find a leaf.	25 Look for bugs around your community.	26 Read a book with rhoms and babies in it.	27 Roll a ball across the grass. Ready, Set, Go!	28 Can you do a park? Try to.
	29 Turn a pan into a drum and make some music.	30 Water the plants together. Talk about wet and dry.	31 Go outside, close your eyes and talk about what you hear.				

First Words Calendar

2022 May							3rd week
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Read a Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme.	2 Make silly faces. Tell me what to do. See. Make a sad face.	3 Collect and feel textured objects and talk about how they feel.	4 Sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.	5 Pretend to be an astronaut or find books about them.	6 Play with toys. Where are they going?	7 Tell me what you want for snack. "I want..."
	8 Give "Mom" hugs and kisses. Sign "Mom".	9 Make a card for someone (maybe a teacher).	10 Play on a riding toy. Talk about going "fast" and "slow".	11 Blow bubbles and stomp on them.	12 Clean up your toys. Sort them into groups (cars, animals...)	13 Read a book about flowers.	14 "Help" "help" like a frog today.
	15 Practice turn taking by passing a car back and forth.	16 Play outside in or under a tree. What does it look like?	17 Follow directions when entering the dishwasher. Ex. Get the spoon.	18 Wash the dishes together. Let me how to do it.	19 Get your feet wet. Fill a container with water or make puddles.	20 Play at a playground today. Tell someone about it later.	21 Sing the Pledge. Practice in and out.
	22 Make a musical instrument from recycled materials.	23 What's for dinner? Follow directions to help out.	24 Go on a scavenger hunt inside. Describe what you found.	25 Look for bugs around your community.	26 Read a book with rhoms and babies in it.	27 Take turns kicking a ball back and forth.	28 Get dressed by yourself.
	29 Turn a pan into a drum and make some music.	30 Water the plants together. Talk about wet and dry.	31 Go outside, close your eyes and talk about what you hear.				

Expanding Language Calendar

Tried & True Tips from a Therapist

by Linda Tapia, Executive Director

Dear Mama, We See You!


A heartfelt thank you to the mothers and mother figures of children that have been part of the Easter Seals Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program.

Moms are special and ECI moms are extra special. That is a true statement. In addition to taking on the job of a mom, ECI moms take on even more. While all moms and mom figures work long hard hours being a mom, ECI moms take on additional duties not expected of all other non-ECI moms. ECI moms are expected to understand and then practice all of the strategies and activities that their child's physical, occupational and/or speech therapist and Early Intervention Specialist (EIS) coached them to do. ECI moms juggle ECI provider's schedules while trying to ensure that their baby or toddler is up and

ready to go when their ECI provider arrives at the door. While all moms carry out numerous “mom” duties and responsibilities each day, ECI moms add the various strategies and activities that their ECI providers coached them to do several times each day throughout the week in addition to all of the expected “mom” duties. As I said, there is no doubt that ECI moms are extra special.

Moms are also teachers. ECI moms are the best teachers to those of us that are fortunate enough to have been part of working in the Easter Seals ECI program. ECI moms help teach us that no matter how difficult or impossible a situation appears, there is a way to get past a seemingly impossible problem. ECI moms help us learn to believe in the special gifts that all of us have to offer no matter how difficult that task appears to be at the start. They help us learn to celebrate small accomplishments as well as the big ones by showing us just how much those small accomplishments mean to them.

For all the wonderful things that ECI moms are and for all that ECI moms have taught us, we thank you. Happy Mother’s Day to all of the moms that are part of the Easter Seals ECI program.



We celebrate and honor all moms...

- young mothers
- older mothers
- stepmothers
- biological and nonbiological
- those with babies in heaven
- those with mothers in heaven
- those who have stepped into the role
- those who will fill it for a short time
- those who have dedicated their lifetime
- working moms
- stay at home moms
- mothers of one
- mothers of multiples
- those who have a mothering heart.

"ECI moms are some of the most compassionate, welcoming women I've ever met. Just today a mom told me that it takes a village, and I'm part of their village. I'm so humbled that these moms allow me to come into their homes and partner with them to help their children be the best that they can be. We've laughed together and cried together, but most of all we've grown together. I am so grateful for all of the wonderful moms that I get to work with every day." -Becky Kakanwa, SLP

"ECI mom's have a secret red cape that comes out immediately when they're faced with any challenge that comes their way when it comes to their child. They are gentle yet strong when facing these struggles. These mom's roll up their sleeves and follow through with sometimes hard moments to help make their child get stronger to tackle any of their struggles/challenges." -ECI Service Provider

"The openness and willingness to learn a new language (signs) to help their children communicate and succeed <3" -ECI Service Provider

"I am honored beyond words to work at Easter Seals ECI as a Mom and an Occupational Therapist of 40 years. I am able to share both my experiences with my parents and children I serve. As Mother's Day approaches I will be traveling to see my 36 year old son whom I haven't seen since pre-CoVid pandemic (3 years). There are so many times during my treatment days I think of those who helped me in the past be a better Mom with Josh those many years ago." -Gratefully, Mary Deffenbaugh, OTR

"Early Childhood Intervention mothers are special because they are the greatest advocates for their little ones. Mothers become silly for the sake of language and play skills. Hanging upside down and jumping in water puddles was made for early childhood mommas. Happy Mothers Day!" -ECI Service Provider

"I am blessed to have awesome mothers I get to work with. They are kind, loving, funny, and brave. Even when exhausted, they have a smile on their face and kind words for the ECI team working with their child/children." -Kim Martinez, SLP

"The openness and willingness to learn a new language (signs) to help their children communicate and succeed <3" -ECI Service Provider

"I believe ECI moms are special because they are strong women. They are amazing because they truly exemplify a sacrificial spirit and there is nothing they would not do for those they love. They have been through a lot in life, they are the best friends and always support you in everything they do. They are loving, caring, funny, brave, smart, good-hearted, hardworking and understanding. There is nothing they would not do for those they love." -Joycie Ramirez, Billing

"ECI moms put all their heart into helping their little ones grow!" -Jenny Obregon, OTR

Spotlight Story - Emilia Huhn

by Alejandra Huhn

Our family's journey with ECI began when Emilia was around 6 months old. She had missed a few milestones at her wellness check up but nothing too out of the ordinary. Her teacher at daycare did notice a few delays and recommended that we get her evaluated and her pediatrician agreed so we set up the first evaluation. Unfortunately, this was at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic so we could only do the evaluation virtually. Emilia did not qualify for services at that time. The therapists that attended the evaluation gave us some exercises to do which we practiced at home. At this point, if I knew or met anyone that had anything to do with pediatric speech, physical or occupational therapy (including my roommate from college) I was asking them for exercises to do with Emilia. She progressed to being able to push to sit up by herself by 11 months but at



that point we knew she needed more help.



At her 12 month wellness check we decided to get another evaluation. Since Emilia wasn't pulling up to stand or cruising yet she qualified for services. She started with physical and speech therapy sessions done via FaceTime. As time progressed she started her sessions at daycare and at home. Emilia also started occupational therapy sessions. Little by little we saw her progress. Little by little we celebrated each win, big and small, and continue to do so.

Emilia has come incredibly far from when she began her therapies almost 2 years ago and has truly blossomed. She's met some of her goals and she's also got some she is still working on. We are so incredibly proud of her and are confident that she'll keep pushing forward as she is a very determined kid. Our family's ECI journey is focused around learning, patience, perseverance and gratitude. Words cannot adequately express how grateful we are for Sara, Heather, Donna & Kathryn. Their guidance and teaching has played a major role not only in Emilia's development, but also helping up become the type of parents we are today. ECI has been woven into the fabric of our lives and even though we'll miss everyone from this program, the impact it's had will stay forever with our family. As for Emilia, the sky is the limit.



Champions fore Charity Campaign

Each year between October and April, Easter Seals ECI raises funds through the Valero Texas Open Champions fore Charity program.

Champions fore Charity is a no-cost program that gives 100% of the funds raised back to the participating organizations, plus incentives including a 7% match.

SeaWorld San Antonio very generously donated an additional package separate from their usual calendar raffle donation to raise additional Champions *fore* Charity funds. We had spots for 50 during the tournament week. We raised an additional \$1150 with this final push for our Champions *fore* Charity Campaign!

This campaign season, we have worked with staff and families to create fun and creative fundraising opportunities like the Sensory-Friendly Santa Experience, the annual calendar raffle, the Spring Tee Golf Raffle and the Dreaming of Summer SeaWorld drawing. Our efforts plus other generous donations resulted in nearly \$27,000 raised for our ECI program through the Champions *fore* Charity campaign.

Easter Seals was the recipient of the 6th and final ***Drawing fore More Awareness*** this season gaining us an additional \$2500 on top of what we raised for our center and dedicated social media posts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Check them out below.



Reminders



Easter Seals will be closed
Monday, May 30, 2022
in observance of Memorial Day.

We'd love to share your child's
ECI journey!
If you'd like to be featured in the
"ECI Spotlight Story"



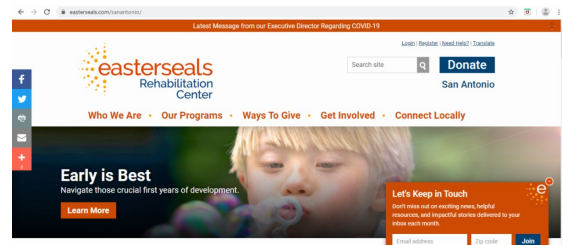
Is Your Child The
next
ECI
SuperStar?

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.

May Awareness Observations

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month!

Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of ASHA members in providing life-altering treatment.

For 2022, the theme is "Connecting People."



Month-Long

- ALS
- Asthma
- Allergy/Asthma
- Better Sleep Month
- Better Speech and Hearing Month
- Brain Tumor
- Cystic fibrosis
- Celiac Awareness Month
- Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS)

- Foot Health Month
- Foster Care Month
- Guide Dog Month
- Huntington's Disease
- Lupus
- Lyme Disease
- Mental Health Month
- Mobility
- National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month - May 15 to June 15
- Stroke

Days

- May 3 - Brain Tumor Action Week
- May 5 - Cri du Chat Syndrome Day
- May 5 - International Midwives Day
- May 5 - National Childhood Stroke
- May 5 - World Asthma Day
- May 7 - National Children's Mental Health
- May 6 - International Awareness Day for Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bones)
- May 7 - Bladder Cancer
- May 8 - World Ovarian Cancer
- May 10 - World Lupus Day
- May 12 - International Awareness Day for Chronic Immunological and Neurological Diseases (CIND)
- May 14 - Childhood Speech Apraxia
- May 15 - International Day of Families -
- May 17 - Worldwide Neurofibromatosis
- May 20 - World AiArthritis Day (AiArthritis Day) - Global - Annually -
- May 21 - Global Accessibility
- May 25 - World Thyroid Day (WTD)
- May 27 - World Multiple Sclerosis Day
- May 28 - World Hunger Day
- May 31 - World No Tobacco Day



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TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Early Childhood Intervention

Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center
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