

Easterseals

TN

ALL ABILITIES. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

Easterseals Tennessee offers person-centered support that enables children and adults to voice their needs, gain a better sense of self, and live life to the fullest.

Early Intervention: Helping Families Reach Their Goals

Easterseals Tennessee provides developmental therapy to more than 125 young children, birth to four years old, and their families. Families with children with developmental delays, prematurity, or disabilities can receive this service through the Tennessee Early Intervention System at no cost to them or their insurance.

Easterseals' team of Early Interventionists meet one on one with families in their natural environment (home, childcare center, park) to help identify the family's goals, routines to learn new skills, and interventions/strategies to assist the child.

Kimberly Erickson, one of the Early Interventionists with Easterseals TN has worked with one of the families since the child was six months old and was referred due to being born ten weeks premature. During a recent therapy session, the child's mother shared benefits her family has experienced. "We have been able to keep an eye on him as a whole. We have been through rolling over, crawling, and first steps. Now that he is two and a half years old, the next goal is potty training." Kimberly has supported the family by helping them understand developmental appropriate milestones and problem solving ways to use the family's routines (mealtime, bath time, bedtime, playing) to learn new skills. "We are so thankful for Early Intervention! It has been invaluable."



This may look like play, but it's a great routine for this child to learn new communication and fine motor skills.

Easterseals TN Autism Therapy Services Grows in Lebanon and the Cleveland TN Communities



Easterseals TN is growing to meet the needs in underserved communities. In October 2022, Easterseals TN opened an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy center in Lebanon. The location supports center-based ABA for children 18 months to five years and community-based ABA for children five years and older. Recently a partnership was established with Trousdale County Schools to provide behavior analysis services for students in this rural community.

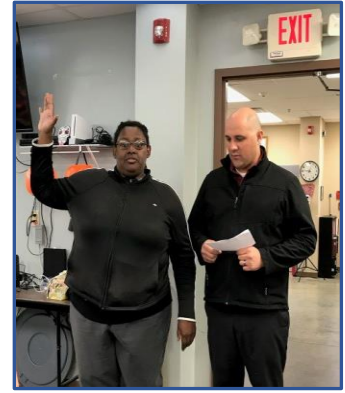
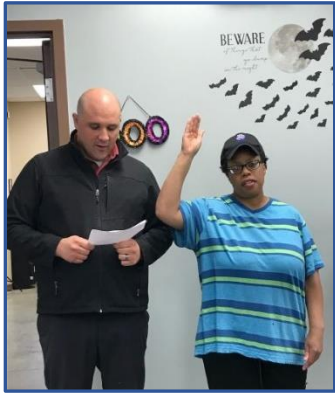
In November, another ABA therapy center opened in Cleveland, TN. This is the

third ABA location across the state and there is excitement about the impact this center will have in the local community. By Summer 2023, there are plans to continue to grow the centers by adding additional BCBAs and RBTs to serve more clients at all sites across Tennessee. Easterseals Tennessee continues to hire for all therapy support and leadership positions. For more information, call 615-444-0597.

Easterseals TN Establishes a Self-Advocacy Committee

In support of a person-centered approach, a Self-Advocacy Committee for members was recently formed to build confidence and promote additional independence. In October, the Self-Advocacy Committee appointed Michael as President, Elaine as Vice-President, and Virginia as Secretary. Michael, Elaine, and Virginia are excited about the leadership opportunity and are regularly hosting meetings and utilizing group messaging for members to enable additional individual successes.

Michael, Elaine, and Virginia are currently enrolled in an Advocates in Motion training and once completed will teach other members about the importance of individual rights, speaking up for themselves, and making good choices. Congratulations to Michael, Elaine, and Virginia on their leadership roles within the committee and enhancing member's abilities to live the life they desire, work towards their goals, and actively contribute in their communities!



Youth and Adult Summer Camp Registration is Now Open



Visit <https://www.easterseals.com/tennessee/our-programs/camping-recreation/> to learn more about camp and registering.



Tim Ryerson, President and CEO

President and CEO Corner

Easterseals Tennessee regularly hears from outside entities our organization needs to keep on the same path of success. Continuing to strive to the highest of standards, the organization requested the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) review the progress with our accreditation. The December 2022 review yielded glowing results with the agency's past, current and future practices. Another recent example from a different outside entity came on a Saturday in January 2023 at a planning session. The consultant and leadership were amazed at the agency's performance over the past several years and summed up the organization's culture: Bold and Impactful.

It is nice to know that outside agencies are recognizing the determination and accomplishments of Easterseals TN as services grow and additional programs are opened across the state. The recommendation from both outside entities: stay bold, continue making an impact on individuals and families as Easterseals TN is needed to remain on the same path for future years to come!

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