















ECI Monthly news & updates








December|2022

2022 December							
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							
	4 Bake cookies today (or make them out of play dough)	5 Have a party in the bathtub. Sing "Happy Birthday"	6 Be silly. Put legs "on" your head	7 Make footprints in mud with plastic animals or dinosaurs	8 Show me your socks	9 Go to the post office. Put letters in the mailbox or packages on the scale	10 Stack blocks or upside down cups. Put them "on" top.
	11 Pretend to feed a baby doll or puppet with a bowl and spoon	12 Let's dance to music. Can you do what I do?	13 Make hot cocoa and talk about "hot"	14 Light and blow out candles today	15 Put your stuffed animals to sleep and tuck them in with a blanket	16 Pick up your toys. Put them in their container	17 Play dress-up. Put them "on" top.
	18 Stack "cheese" "crackers" and serve a snack to your family	19 Sing Rock A Bye Baby	20 Decorate cookies. Put icing "on"	21 Read a book with a flashlight tonight	22 Roll a pinwheel in peanut butter and birdseed for the birds	23 Turn the lights on. Say "on"	24 Show me your pajamas?
	25 Can you sign "open" and "Thank you"?	26 Make "Thank You" cards	27 Tape up empty boxes to make large blocks to play with	28 Play cars. Put patterns tape on the floor to make a racetrack	29 Can you click your tongue? Try it	30 Point to the moon in books	31 Blow party horns

Early Communicator Calendar

2022 December							
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							
	4 Bake cookies today (or make them out of play dough)	5 Have a party in the bathtub. Sing "Happy Birthday"	6 Be silly. Put legs "on" your head	7 Make footprints in mud with plastic animals or dinosaurs	8 Help put away your laundry	9 Go to the post office. Put letters in the mailbox or packages on the scale	10 Play with blocks. What did you build?
	11 Pretend to feed a baby doll or puppet with a bowl and spoon	12 Make a gingerbread house. Practice saying "on"	13 Follow directions to help make hot cocoa	14 Light and blow out candles today. How many can you do?	15 Pretend you are going to sleep. Say "night night" and close your eyes	16 Sing the clean up song as you pick up your toys	17 String dry pasta on yarn to make a necklace for someone
	18 Stack "cheese" "crackers" and serve a snack to your family	19 Sing Rock A Bye Baby	20 Decorate cookies. What do your cookies look like?	21 Read a book with a flashlight tonight	22 Roll a pinwheel in peanut butter and birdseed for the birds	23 A 30 Point to action words in books, eating, sleeping.	24 Can you put on your pajamas?
	25 Practice saying "open" and "Thank you"	26 Make "Thank You" cards	27 Tape up empty boxes to make large blocks to play with	28 Play cars. Put patterns tape on the floor to make a racetrack	29 Can you click your tongue? Try it	30 What shape is the moon	31 Blow party horns

First Words Calendar

2022 December							
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							
	4 Bake cookies today (or make them out of play dough)	5 Have a party in the bathtub. Sing "Happy Birthday"	6 Be silly. Put legs "on" your head	7 Make footprints in mud with plastic animals or dinosaurs	8 Can you match your socks? Which ones go together?	9 Go to the post office. Put letters in the mailbox or packages on the scale	10 Stack blocks or upside down cups. Put them "on" top.
	11 Pretend to feed a baby doll or puppet with a bowl and spoon	12 Make a gingerbread house. Practice saying "on"	13 Make hot cocoa and talk about "hot"	14 Light and blow out candles today	15 Pretend you are going to sleep. Say "night night" and close your eyes	16 Sing the clean up song as you pick up your toys	17 String dry pasta on yarn to make a necklace for someone
	18 Stack "cheese" "crackers" and serve a snack to your family	19 Sing Rock A Bye Baby	20 Decorate cookies. Put icing "on"	21 Read a book with a flashlight tonight	22 Roll a pinwheel in peanut butter and birdseed for the birds	23 Turn the lights on. Say "on"	24 Can you put on your pajamas?
	25 Practice saying "open" and "Thank you"	26 Make "Thank You" cards	27 Tape up empty boxes to make large blocks to play with	28 Play cars. Put patterns tape on the floor to make a racetrack	29 Can you click your tongue? Try it	30 Point to the moon. Say "moon"	31 Blow party horns

Expanding Language Calendar

Tried & True Tips from a Therapist

by Suzanne Roewe, EIS, SC

The Power Of Play!

What is "play"? When defined as a noun, the word play means an activity engaged in for enjoyment and recreation, especially by children. When it is defined as a verb, it means to engage in an activity for enjoyment and recreation, rather than serious or practical purposes. The ECI model uses play strategies to help children learn and grow in all areas of development. Why is play so important? Play enhances language development, creativity, imagination, critical thinking, fine and gross motor skills, and teaches children to persevere and control emotions. Play is a child's "work". It is how children test their ideas and new skills. Play assists children in learning to communicate and fosters social skills. Children are a work in progress as they grow into functional adults and play is big part of this process. Encouraging your child's play is one of the most important ways to nurture their development and it

begins on day one. Did you know that there is nothing in the world that your child would rather do than play with YOU? As your child is learning to play, they are also playing to learn. Different types of play include:

- ***ACTIVE** – physical, outdoors, sports
- ***MAKE BELIEVE** – dolls, role play, scenes
- ***MANIPULATIVE** – construction, puzzles, patterns
- ***CREATIVE** – music, art, audio/visual
- ***LEARNING** – books, games, skills



Easy holiday sensory bottles
focus on fine motor skills.

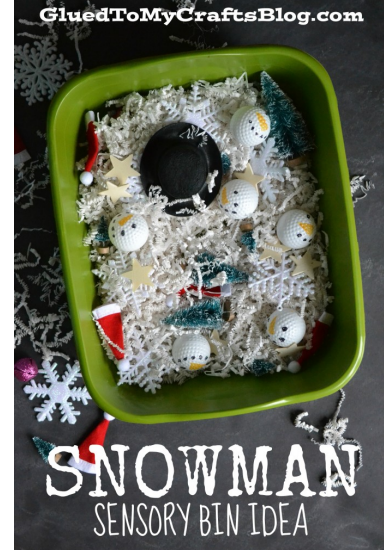
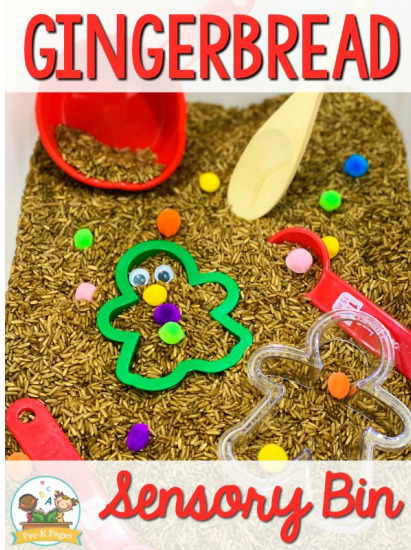


Puzzle Books blend reading and play.



Larger sensory bins encourage parallel and cooperative play.

Coloring/scribbling is a fun way for children and adults to play together. It allows for the expression of creativity, teaches how to grip and apply pressure, and is a child's progression to writing. This fun activity also improves cognitive skills, focus, fine motor strength, and coordination. Reading is another great way to bond with your child. It helps form basic speech and communication skills. Reading develops logical thinking and enhances attention and concentration. An important key in developing successful reading skills in a child is to know that reading can not be rushed – it can only be fostered, not forced. High interest, open ended activities such as sensory bins offer endless opportunities for exploring. This activity has no “right or wrong” way to play which allows the child to be in control of the “how to”. This fosters a sense of independence which sets a child up for success. Sensory bins can be modified for any age and can be played with by multiple people if the bin is large enough. These bins encourage imaginative play using the senses of sight, sound, touch and often taste! YOU are your child’s favorite toy – go play together!



If you are looking for toys geared towards a certain diagnosis, check out this resource on [**Fat Brain Toys**](#).

Sensory-Friendly Santa Experience

What a gift to kick off the holiday season with YOU! Countless thanks to everyone who donated time and talent to make the Sensory-Friendly Santa Event a huge success! Santa and his elves, helpers, and volunteers saw to it that 94 families had a great experience!

Santa photos were a big hit! Sonia Freeman with Aria Productions is a master of her craft. She is patient and sensitive towards the needs of all families and we are so thankful for her and Santa's time with us. If you're interested in using Sonia for your photography needs, you can find her info [**here**](#).

Children and families hung out in the multipurpose room playing in the walk-in gingerbread village, crafting frames, and reading with some of our therapists while waiting their turn with Santa.

Ms. Cora and Briggie the therapy dog made their rounds bringing lots of smiles and joyful squeals.



Carolers from Brennan High School Choir filled the hallway with holiday spirit.

We are so thankful for all who attended. We look forward to next year!

Happy Holidays!

“ I am very thankful for this event. Not only was my son able to meet Santa in a more relaxed setting, but we saw him interact with the staff/volunteers and other children like never before. My son is autistic and nonverbal. This will forever be an unforgettable beautiful memory for my husband and I.”

—Jazmín Perez



What a Gift...

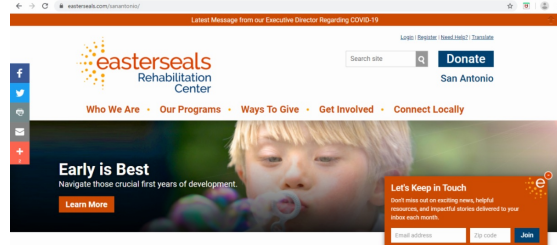


Easter Seals will be closed
December 26th in observance
of the holidays.

Please speak with your ECI
providers regarding your
services December 19-23 and
December 27-30.

Wishing you all joy and
happiness this holiday season.
-Easter Seals ECI

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.



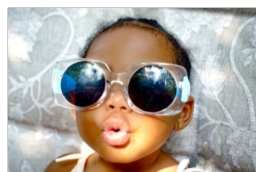
Resources:

[Christmas Activities for Babies & Toddler](#)

[Kid-Friendly No Bake Spice Ornaments](#)

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.

Reminders



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!](#)

December Awareness Observations



Month-Long

- Universal Human Rights Month

Days

- December 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- December 10 - Human Rights Day
- December 27 - International Day of Epidemic Preparedness



2203 Babcock Road
San Antonio, TX 78229

phone: 210.614.3911
fax: 210.625.3162



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.