



# EARLY IS BEST

## EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

### AN EL PASO FAMILY STORY

Ian was delivered at Del Sol Medical Center extremely premature at just 28 weeks gestation. Being almost three months early, he was referred to the local Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program for services before being discharged from the neonatal intensive care unit.

ECI provided physical therapy, occupational therapy, and developmental services regularly. ECI specialists spent time teaching the family how to get Ian rolling over on both sides, crawling, and pulling to stand.

As Ian grew stronger, he began to have issues with his muscle tone; one side of his body was stronger than the other. Mom explained that "Ian would always pick the easiest foot to walk down the stairs". Having asymmetrical muscle tone, physical therapist, Nancy Segapelli, began teaching mom new techniques to work on at home during their normal routines of daily life. Mom began taking Ian to the park between therapy visits to walk up hills forcing him to use his weaker foot.

Ian started receiving speech therapy to improve his language skills, as well as occupational therapy and developmental services. He has made great improvements.

ECI is all about teaching families how to help their children...the real magic occurs when parents know how to provide therapy and intervention on their own in the comfort of their child's natural surroundings.

*"Since the day ECI came into our lives he has changed dramatically. They have helped with his walking and improved his mobility". Ian's mom*



Ian Ricardo Trevizo- now 20 mos

ECI currently serves over 1,800 babies birth to three in El Paso and Hudspeth County.

[www.elpasoeci.org](http://www.elpasoeci.org)

### FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM ECI BECAUSE.....

- current research indicates that family centered models of intervention are more successful.
- children learn best from people they know.
- children learn best in their natural environment where they live, learn, and play.
- families do not need transportation to participate.
- it decreases billing of insurance companies and Medicaid.
- families can be active participants in their child's therapy and intervention.
- they are the most cost effective therapy services available for families.
- ECI provides a comprehensive array of services



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**ECI Services :**

- Developmental services
- Assistive Technology Services
- Family Counseling
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Case management
- Vision services
- Audiology
- Family Education Services
- Nutrition Services
- Evaluation

**What parents say about us.....**

- *I am very happy with my daughter's PT (physical therapist) and teacher. They're great. They have helped my daughter blossom into the grins and giggles that she is now. Thank you.*
- *With ECI's help I have been able to cope with my child's disability. They have advised us effectively and accurately. They have provided support to our family and guided all of us. Thank you.*
- *This program was very helpful for my son and I noticed a huge improvement. I would highly recommend this program.*
- *My son really enjoyed the speech therapist, now he will be going to Head-start and is talking more.*

Research has shown that for every dollar invested in early childhood programs, savings of up to \$17 can be expected (Heckman, James, Gruenewald, Rob, and Reynolds, Arthur. 2006 *The Dollars and Cents of Investing Early: Cost-benefit Analysis in Early Care and Education.*) ZERO TO THREE Journal 26 (6): 10-17.

**CHILDREN SERVED BY ECI  
EL PASO & HUDSPETH COUNTIES FY 2010**

City	Zip Code	#children served	City	Zip Code	#children served
El Paso:	79901	66		79928	232
	79902	47		79932	94
	79903	73		79930	139
	79904	218		79934	73
	79905	226		79935	83
	79906	60		79936	416
	79907	301		79938	207
	79908	12	San Eli	79849	78
	79912	303	Anthony	79821	22
	79911	7	Canutillo	79835	54
	79915	279	Clint	79836	22
	79922	22	Fabens	79838	47
	79924	333	Tornillo	79853	11
	79925	169	Dell City, Fort Hancock , Sierra Blanca		10
	79926	3	Total	3789	
	79927	182			