











ECI Monthly news & updates






April 2023

2023 April						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						
1 Make silly faces in front of a mirror	2 Practice the sign for "look" during meals	3 Notice to see if your child turns towards sounds	4 Play peek-a-boo	5 Practice clapping and saying "you" with your child	6 See if your child will turn toward you when you say their name	7 Have your child reach up to you to be picked up
8 Copy the sounds your child makes	9 Look for hidden eggs hidden under a blanket	10 Teach following directions: "Come here"	11 Read an animal book with your child	12 Blow bubbles and watch to see where they land	13 Sing The Wheels on the Bus	14 Play outside in the grass with shoes off
15 Do something to make your child laugh	16 Read a book with pictures to your child	17 Build a tower and have your child knock it down	18 Play with cars and make car noises together	19 Give 5 people a high five today	20 Put an animal that is soft	21 Practice learning body parts by looking in the mirror and putting things in it
22 Wash a container from your recycling and put things in it	23 Sing Rock Your Body	24 Will your child follow the direction "Give me a hug?"	25 Make an obstacle course in your living room	26 Give a ball back and forth	27 Point to pictures in a book and say what they are	28 Use the sign "leaf" during meals today
29 Play dress-up						

Early Communicator Calendar

2023 April						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						
1 Make silly faces in front of a mirror	2 Practice saying "milk" during meals	3 Feed three things that are "big" to you	4 Play hide and seek. Say "I see you!"	5 Talk about what people are doing in a book (is he eating?)	6 Repeat the word "in" when cleaning up	7 Ask your child "Where is the light" and see if you can find it
8 See an egg up in the under	9 Teach following directions: "Get the big hat"	10 Blow bubbles and watch where they land	11 Read an animal book with your child	12 Blow bubbles and talk about where they land	13 Sing The Wheels on the Bus	14 Play outside in the grass with shoes off
15 Do something silly together	16 Read a book with pictures to your child	17 Build with blocks together	18 Play with cars together. Where are they going?	19 Give 5 people a high five today	20 Put an animal that is soft	21 Ask "Who is the "at" and point to that character
22 Make a toy from recycled materials today	23 Sing Rock Your Body	24 Follow the direction "Give me a hug and a kiss"	25 Make an obstacle course in your living room	26 Kick a ball back and forth	27 Point to pictures in a book and say what they are	28 Say "leaf" of during meals today
29 Play dress-up						

First Words Calendar

2023 April						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						
1 Make a toy and read a book in it	2 Make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich (pretzel...)	3 Try a color scavenger hunt (find something red...)	4 Walk around your neighborhood and talk about what you see	5 Find 5 things made of wood	6 Build something out of blocks	7 Make silly faces in the mirror
8 Visit the zoo and talk about what you see	9 Look for hidden eggs hidden under a blanket	10 Teach following directions: "Come here"	11 Read an animal book with your child	12 Blow bubbles and watch to see where they land	13 Sing The Wheels on the Bus	14 Play outside in the grass with shoes off
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29 Play dress-up						

Expanding Language Calendar

Tried & True Tips from a Therapist

by Mary Deffenbaugh, BS, OTR, SC

Marsha Walters, BA, EIS, SC

Amy Chavez, BA, Public Outreach Coordinator

The Power of Play

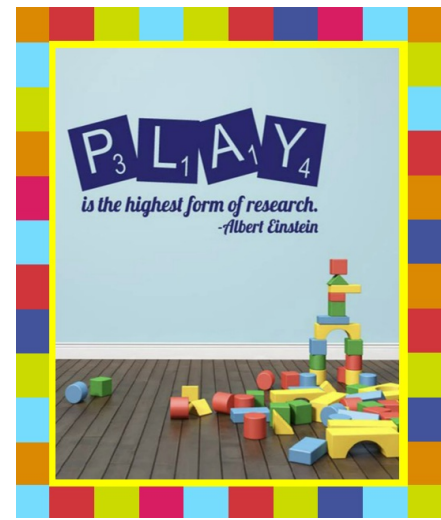


April: Month of the Young Child

April is the Month of the Young Child. This brings mindfulness and focused attention to laying a strong foundation for the next generation. We know that about 90% of the brain is developed by age 5. The first three years are a special window of opportunity to bond with your child and invest in the future.

All activities young children engage in – from simple daily routines to exciting adventures like a trip to the park, seeing or meeting a new animal, or participation in an activity or craft– can have a lasting impact on their growth and development.

Play and learning are intertwined. They are **NOT** separate activities. The learning happens when children are engaged in **play**. The goals and the outcomes are met through **play**. All domains of development are activated when a child is involved in meaningful **play**.



Developmental Domains that are activated through PLAY:

- Fine Motor
- Gross Motor
- Receptive Speech
- Expressive Speech
- Cognition
- Social Emotional Skills
- Self Help Skills

Building a Strong Foundation Through Play

- Play practices skills, encourages trying new things.
- Play allows children to make sense of the world around them.
- Play promotes receptive and expressive language.
- Play involves children cognitively, motorically and verbally.
- Play allows children to experience motivation, joy, and thrill.
- Through play children expand understanding and experiences.



Did You Know?

- When you teach them to play with **open-ended** toys, you open a world of

possibilities.

- Kids are so **excited** to play with what you **created** for them!
- You **actively** become their **partner** in **play**.

Here's a **list** of household items that have a fun side, too, just to get you started.

Key Takeaways

Through play children learn at a very early age to engage and interact in the world around them. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing strengths.

Play is important to healthy brain development.

		
Imagination	Dexterity	Cognitive
		
Physical	Social	Emotional

PLAY IS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT AS IF IT WERE A RELIEF FROM SERIOUS LEARNING. BUT FOR CHILDREN PLAY IS SERIOUS LEARNING. PLAY IS REALLY THE WORK OF CHILDHOOD. -FRED ROGERS

Let this celebration of young children motivate you to make a toy and really **play** with your child. Be adventurous! This city has so many family friendly activities to explore – many are even **FREE!** Ask your service coordinator for ideas about what's happening around town. Utilize the calendars above as inspiration for creating mini daily language-rich experiences for your child.



Play is *both* fun and creative!

Take a few ideas from the article and create a busy board for your child.

Spotlight Story - The Lozano Family

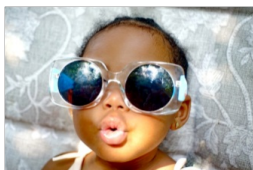


by Cynthia Lozano

An amazing experience is what our family had with the services provided by Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. The DREAM TEAM that Amanda put together for all three of my children opened our world to new activities, ideas, and strategies that we could implement positively as a family. The DREAM TEAM always made our family feel confident about the things we were already doing. The progress all my children made has been outstanding. Ella, Jaxon, and Judson continue to shine with confidence. They all loved the program and always looked forward to their weekly sessions.

We are beyond grateful for the quality professionals and services that they provided in the most innovative way. May you all continue to be blessed and provide all the blessings you have given my family and others.

We Are Looking For Spotlight Stories for Upcoming Newsletters



Is Your Child The
next
E C I
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!](#)

March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Easter Seals ECI Program Calendar Raffle A WINNER every day in MARCH! Ticket Price: \$5.00 Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center 2203 Babcock Road San Antonio, TX 78229 210.614.3911		Ticket #: «Ticket #»	1 Adventures from Scratch Family Edition Book (\$40 Value)	2 Bubba's 33 Gift Pack (\$50 Value)	3 San Antonio Museum of Art One-Year Family Membership (\$110 Value)	4 Let's Roam! Family Scavenger Hunt up to 10 Players (\$70 Value)	
5 National Outdoors Army Supply Gift Card (\$50 Value)	6 Let's Roam! Date Night Scavenger Hunt 2 Players (\$50 Value)	7 Girl's Huffly 20" Too Fab Coaster Bike with Helmet (\$145 Value)	8 Tiff's Treats Gift Card (\$50 Value)	9 Dillard's Gift Card (\$50 Value)	10 San Antonio Zoo (4) Day Passes (\$120 Value)	11 Kendra Scott Necklace & Earrings Set (Value \$120)	
12 Let's Roam Team Building Activity (\$525 Value)	13 Six Flags Fiesta Texas Two Tickets (\$180 Value)	14 Nothing Bundt Cakes Gift Card for 12" Decorated (\$48 Value)	15 Handmade Kaleidoscope Baby Gift (\$200 Value)	16 Santikos Family Gift Basket (\$100 Value)	17 Bubba's 33 Gift Pack (\$90 Value)	18 San Antonio Botanical Gardens Friend Membership (\$150 Value)	
19 Bella Creations by GiGi Tumbler and Coaster Set (\$75 Value)	20 Fiesta Wreath (\$105 Value)	21 Bill Miller Gift Card (\$50 Value)	22 Let's Roam! Date Night Scavenger Hunt 2 Players (\$50 Value)	23 National Outdoors Army Supply Gift Card (\$50 Value)	24 Kendra Scott Gift Card (\$50 Value)	25 Boy's 18" Genesis Glitch Bike (\$128 Value)	
26 Morgan's Wonderland 4-pack Tickets (\$76 Value)	27 Let's Roam! Family Scavenger Hunt up to 10 Players (\$70)	28 Tiff's Treats Gift Card (\$50 Value)	29 Girls Toy Basket with Barbie, Spirit, Hello Kitty & More... (\$135)	30 Gift Card Pack: Happy Teen Benihana Target (\$85 Value)	31 Cover 3: Dining, Spirits, Sports (\$100 Value)	Daily Prizes! easterseals Rehabilitation Center TEXAS Statewide Lottery	

Calendar Raffle was a HUGE success with over 700 tickets sold!

Thank you to everyone who supported our ECI program through the purchase of raffle tickets and to all the donors who made the amazing prizes possible.

Congratulations to all the winners. To view the complete list of **WINNERS** click here.

We look forward to another great raffle next year.

2022 Calendar Raffle Donors

[The San Antonio Museum of Art](#)
[Nothing Bundt Cakes](#)
[National Outdoors Army Surplus](#)
[Scavenger Hunts by Let's Roam](#)
[Adventures from Scratch](#)
[JBSA-EFMP:Family Support](#)
[Bubba's 33](#)
[Six Flags Fiesta Texas](#)
[Bella Creations by GiGi](#)
[Cover 3](#)

[Tiff's Treats-Alamo Ranch](#)
[Kendra Scott](#)
[Morgan's Wonderland](#)
[The San Antonio Zoo](#)
[Bill Miller BBQ](#)
[SeaWorld San Antonio](#)
[San Antonio Botanical Gardens](#)
[Marcy Roca](#)
[Sarah Washington](#)
[The DoSeum](#)



Congratulations
to
Keoka Scott

for winning the *Dreaming of Summer* package. Special thanks to [SeaWorld](#)

San Antonio for their continued support of the Easter Seals ECI program.



We were able to draw a second winner thanks to another year of support from our friends at The DoSeum.

Congratulations to **Elsa Levrie**! You won a Family 4-Pack to The DoSeum.



Thank You

to everyone who supported our fundraising season this year. Together, we making a difference in our community!

Reminders



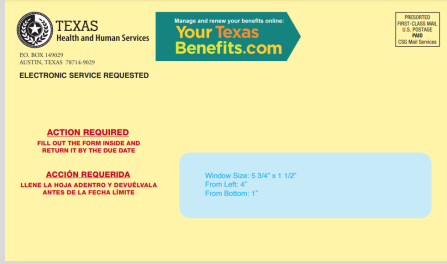
Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center will be closed **April 7, 2022** in observance of the Easter Holiday.



Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center will be closed **April 28, 2022** in observance of Battle of Flowers.

Continuous Medicaid Coverage Ending

Beginning **April 1, 2023**, all Medicaid members, including children receiving ECI services, will need to have their Medicaid eligibility



redetermined. Member members should look out for renewal notices mailed in an envelope that says "Action Required" in red or sent electronically to members signed up for electronic notices.

Article Heading

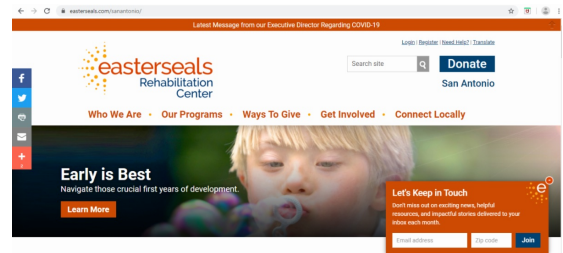
Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

[Text Link](#)



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.

April Awareness Observations

April is Occupational Therapy Month!

Every April, we celebrate Occupational Therapy Month to honor this vital profession and the meaningful differences it makes in

the lives of our families. Thank your OT today!

Pediatric OT: Where PLAY gets the WORK done!

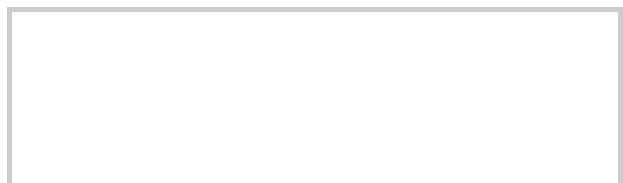
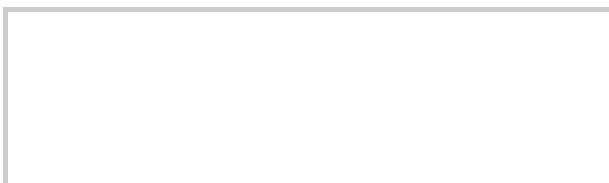


Month-Long

- Alcohol
- American Cancer Society Month
- Autism
- Child Abuse Prevention Month - (U.S.)
- Community Service Month
- Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE)
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)
- Limb Loss
- Occupational Therapy
- Oral Health Month
- Parkinson's Disease
- Primary Immunodeficiency

Days

- April 1 - Youth Homelessness Matters Day
- April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day
- April 4 - Auditory Processing Disorder
- April 9 - National Alcohol Screening Day
- April 10 - National Youth HIV and AIDS
- April 11 - Parkinson's Disease International.
- April 13 - Functional Neurological Disorder
- April 17 - World Hemophilia Day
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 25 - World Meningitis Day
- April 25 - World Malaria Day
- April 29 - Make-A-Wish Day





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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.

Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center | 2203 Babcock Road, San Antonio, TX 78229

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