



# easterseals







## Easter Seals

### Rehabilitation Center







# ECI Monthly

## news & updates







December|2023

December 2023						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						
1 Read a 10-page book sign "open".	2 Bake cookies today (or make them out of play dough).	3 Have a party in the bathtub. Sing "Happy Birthday".	4 Be silly. Put toys "on" your head.	5 Make hopscotch in mud with plastic animals or dinosaurs.	6 Show me your socks.	7 Help decorate for the holidays. "Open" boxes.
8 Stack blocks or upside down cup. Put them "on" top.	9 Put your feet in shoes. Put them "on" top.	10 Let's dance to music. Can you do what I do?	11 Make not cookies and talk about "hot".	12 Light and blow out candles today.	13 Put your feet in shoes. Put them "on" top.	14 Pick up your toys. Put them in their container.
15 Play dress-up. Put a scarf "on".	16 Sing Rock A Bye Baby.	17 Decorate cookies. Put string "on".	18 Read a book with a flashlight tonight.	19 Roll a pincone in peanut butter and birdseed for the birds.	20 Roll a pincone in peanut butter and birdseed for the birds.	21 Turn the lights on. Sign "on".
22 Shine me your cap? Put "on" your cap? Thank you!	23 Make Thank You cards.	24 Tape up empty boxes to make large blocks to play with.	25 Play cars. Put pairs on the floor to make a raceback.	26 Can you put on your pajamas? Put "on" your pajamas? Thank you!	27 Blow party horns.	28 Point to the moon in books.

Early Communicator Calendar

December 2023						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						
1 Spread kindness today and do a good deed.	2 Bake cookies today (or make them out of play dough).	3 Have a party in the bathtub. Sing "Happy Birthday".	4 Be silly. Put toys "on" your head.	5 Make hopscotch in mud with plastic animals or dinosaurs.	6 Show me your socks.	7 Help decorate for the holidays. "Open" boxes.
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First Words Calendar

December 2023						
Notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						
1 Spread kindness today and do a good deed.	2 Bake cookies today (or make them out of play dough).	3 Have a party in the bathtub. Sing "Happy Birthday".	4 Be silly. Put toys "on" your head.	5 Make hopscotch in mud with plastic animals or dinosaurs.	6 Show me your socks.	7 Help decorate for the holidays. "Open" boxes.
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Expanding Language Calendar

# Family Engagement

Our Halloween Trick-or-Treat and Sensory-Friendly Santa Experiences brought together many families and volunteers in October and November. We are so thankful for Scholars and Athletes Serving Others (SASO), Great Hearts, Students of Service (SOS), the UTHSCSA Schools of Nursing and Speech and Language Pathology, the Pre-PA Society from UTSA, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Aria Productions, Sonia Freeman, Morgan Graf, Jeff Huston, Ryan Chavez, the Easter Seals Board of Directors, the Easter Seals staff, and all the other individuals who graciously gave of their time and talents to make these events possible. We also could not put on these events without HEB who awarded the Family Engagement program a \$5000 grant.

We are so thankful for all the families who joined us! Please stay tuned for the next Family Engagement event which will take place in the spring.



## Spotlight Story - Evelyn Cruz

By Sierra Cruz

I knew about Easter Seals 26 years ago when my brother needed it for speech and occupational therapy. Never did I think I would need it for my own daughter, Evelyn. We didn't notice anything until my mother noticed she wasn't saying the proper amount of words for her age.

After taking her to the doctor she was diagnosed with speech delay. Easter Seals made us feel so safe and secure. Explaining to us how we did nothing wrong for this to have happened and assuring us we were doing everything right as her parents to get her help.

Within a few weeks we noticed a big improvement in her speech. She grew such a strong bond with her therapists that they have become our second family. While laying in bed one day, my daughter came up to me and said, "I love you mommy." We had been waiting to hear those words for over a year.

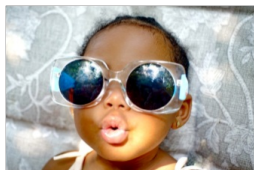
Easter seals gave my little girl her voice, and they gave my brother his voice as well 26 years ago. We will always be so grateful for them and cherish every moment we've had. Tears fill up my eyes every time I think

about how you all have helped my child. We love all of you so much and you will always be a second family to us.



*Evelyn Cruz*

## 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!](#)

### Valero Benefit for Children

This holiday season, we're grateful to be recognized through the @ValeroBenefit for Children at the 100th annual #NYSETreeLighting. As a recipient of \$10,000 for our programs, we are proud to be amongst the 100s of charities, helping 1000s of lives, all for 1 purpose, making a difference for children. #ValeroBFC2023

We are enrolling more children than ever in the ECI program. Grants like these support our mission and help

us provide services to the growing number of children in need. Pictured is Cindy Gonzales, Pre-Enrollment Team Leader, with the 2023 BFC ornament.



## Holiday Cheer

Many thanks to The Sonterra Tennis Club for their very generous donation of toys to our Holiday Cheer program. Thanks to you, the holiday season is a little brighter for many children.

## Reminders



**Easter Seals will be closed on the following days in observance of the upcoming winter and New Year's holidays.**

**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**Tuesday, December 26, 2023**

**Monday, January 1, 2024**

**We wish you all a joyous and safe holiday season with your loved ones.**

## When to Cancel Therapy

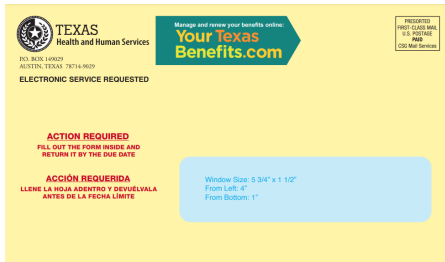
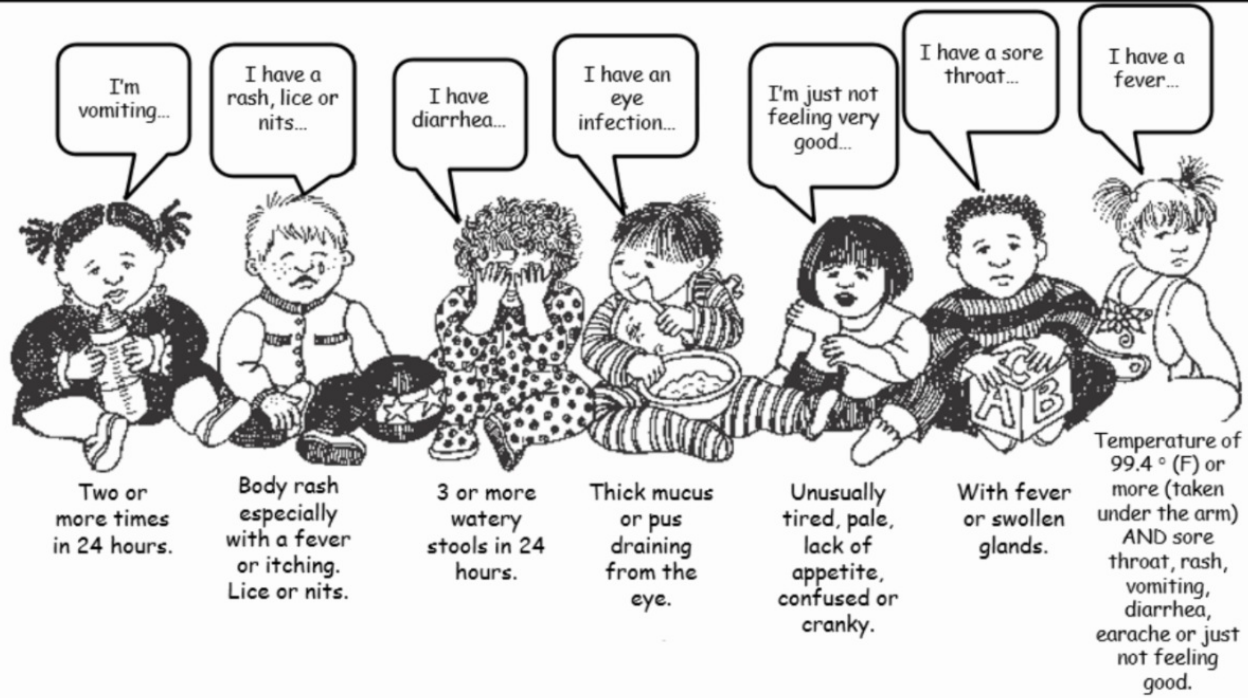
As we enter fall and with several illnesses going around, please help us prevent widespread sickness throughout our program.

Telehealth is available if your child is well enough for therapy, but you're concerned about spreading germs. If your child is not well enough for any type of therapy, please cancel with your therapist. Remember, when we leave your home, we go to see other children and families.



**Let's all work together to keep everyone as healthy as possible.**

# I might have to cancel or reschedule if...



[More Info](#)

## Continuous Medicaid Coverage Ending

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

## December Awareness Observations



### Month-Long

- Constipation
- 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 - (UN)
- December 27 - International Day of



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**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.

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