

## JP's Journey with Easterseals

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**After their son was diagnosed with a neurological disorder, a family turned to Easterseals for support and resources.**

Around four months, JP had stopped meeting his infant milestones. He could not hold up his head, and he was not interacting with his surroundings or meeting his parents' gaze. His pediatrician suspected a neurological disorder, which an MRI confirmed. The neurologist recommended Easterseals to his parents as a starting place. JP would need specialized therapy, but what types and to what extent wasn't yet clear. One thing that was certain: Easterseals could provide the multidisciplinary support JP needed.

By the age of six months, through the Early Intervention program at Easterseals, JP had the help of a team of specialists. He, along with his mom, Mary Beth, regularly engaged with a social worker, and JP received occupational, physical, and speech therapies, among other services. The specialists also worked closely with Mary Beth to teach her how to continue his therapies at home. Later, when JP received his first wheelchair, he attended mobility clinics held at Easterseals, to ensure his equipment—which later included ankle supports—fit and worked best for him. By age three, JP entered his public elementary school and was able to move through the halls independently.

Mary Beth credits Easterseals and its comprehensive services and specialists—especially the emotional support she and her family received—for helping her navigate life with a child with a disability.

**"The support I received was truly a lifeline," Mary Beth said. "Easterseals was my whole life back then, and even now, remains very important to me."**

To learn more about our Early Intervention services, visit:

<https://www.eastersealschicago.org/programs/early-intervention-child-and-family-connections>