

Head Start learning to save environment

I'm writing you this letter to inform you of the exciting things that are going on at Florence Head Start and Child Development Center. We went "Green" for the month of April. Our children did many activities focusing on saving our environment, recycling, as well as planting trees. Thanks to Florence Farms Nursery for donating 15 trees and shrubs we were able to plant a few feet away at Main Street Park. Our parents were an awesome help! The kids had a great time!

Later on the next week we decided to call United Blood Services and do a blood drive. With the help from the kids at Florence K-8 it was a great success. United Blood Services had to come back again because of our wonderful community involvement!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hampton

Raising In Arizona - Part One
March 16th 2006 @ 7:54 pm [General](#), [Arizona](#)
programs for children with autism.

We've been fortunate to receive comprehensive early intervention services for our son so far. Perhaps it wouldn't hurt to share just a little of the good about this. (with a lot of help from several different private and state agencies) took shape.



Looking back over the past year, it's easy to conclude that I have learned a tremendous amount. The people that work for and with our state-contracted early intervention services provider, are without a doubt, a major factor in the amount and quality of education we have received as a family. On top of that, they are all committed to our family's success and execute on that commitment with utmost professionalism.

There is a particular aspect of our EIP that really aggregated a tremendous resource for us - **“Team” therapy day**. I was surprised to learn through an area-wide support group, that this is not necessarily the norm.

“Team” therapy day is essentially a monthly visit by a group consisting of the EIP supervisor, an early intervention specialist, a speech therapist, an occupational therapist, and a physical therapist. The specific specialists and therapists are generally not the same people who work with us and our son on a weekly basis. Through any given month, we generally have regular scheduled access to, and assistance from at least 2 specialists/therapists in their prospective fields for a total of 8-10 professionals who know us and know our son.

Here's what I find so helpful about the tag team days:

It's Motivational: A team that doesn't necessarily consist of members who see us weekly, is not desensitized to our son's continual toddler progress. Developmental progress (however small, or potentially unnoticed) is often readily apparent to them. Their documented observations help us stay objective and optimistic at the same time, simply because changes in our son stand out to them (even if they have to refer back to previous notes).

It's Constructive: A team that doesn't necessarily consist of members who see us weekly can be capable of pointing out areas which might benefit from additional effort. It can be easy for us to become complacent about something, due to being exposed to it too often or even burned-out, dismissing its importance somewhat. A well-placed reminder or suggestion from a therapy “team” helps us focus on important (and likely to bring benefit) areas for effort. As an example, their reminder to persist with teaching basic dressing and undressing skills (which should facilitate potty training later), seems like a good idea; it's common sense of course, but easy to let slide in a busy household.

It's Comprehensive: The team typically consists of the EIP agency supervisor, an early intervention specialist, a speech therapist, an occupational therapist, and a physical therapist. There isn't a week or month that goes by that I or my wife don't have some sort

of additional questions. We write them down, and discuss them with the group, or the appropriate specialist. No matter what our question relates to, it's rare that no one present can't answer it or at least point us to an appropriate resource. As an example, our son probably doesn't really need physical therapy anymore (and he's not getting it). However, there are occasional questions or issues that come up that make the monthly presence of a physical therapist incredibly valuable; especially because it often results in some additional education that we can implement on our own.

It's Efficient: In general, the majority of our extra questions, and opportunities to consider additional suggestions are all easily taken care of in a single monthly meeting (we still see an early intervention specialist, speech therapist, and occupational therapist weekly). **Most importantly, specific questions and suggestions are handled by the appropriately trained and experienced professional.**

It's Cost-Effective: We are fortunate, after a year-long pursuit, to be receiving habilitaion assistance from an extremely motivated individual. She is able to accommodate our schedule and be present during "team" therapy day. This leads to her receiving specific education and suggestions from the team along with us, which she then helps us implement. As an example, Cameron doesn't really need weekly physical therapy. Receiving that specific education and assistance from a physical therapist on the team, once a month, essentially enables our habilitator and us address those few related issues - without having to pursue state-funded weekly physical therapy.

It Broadens our Resource Base: I know that even if our early intervention specialist or her supervisor is unavailble, I can speak with another early intervention specialist. Yes, she's not our assigned specialist, but she knows us and knows our son Cameron. If I need help, or need to ask a question, it's not going to a stranger, or to someone to whom our child is a stranger. The other great thing about working monthly with a team is that it provides instant access to second opinions. If I want to ask a for a second opinion from an occupational therapist or speech therapist, etc. (who is not one of our son's regular weekly therapists) that option is there, because we know several different appropriate specialists through the team.

I could go on about all the individual therapists and their individual specific contributions to our family's education and ability to address the special needs of our son, but I think my point is clear.

This "team" therapy day sure seems like a good idea. It has brought education and an expanded set of valuable resources to us, and I'm thankful.

-Dad Of Cameron

[Click here to return to Pinal Gila Community Child Services Inc Web Site](#)