

Early Intervention Services

Levi was born 4 months prematurely and was in the hospital for the first 3 months of his life. He was diagnosed with retinopathy of prematurity which affected his vision and experienced G-I reflux which made his feeding difficult for his family.

When we first saw Levi, at about 5 months of age, he tended to keep his head to the right because of the way he was positioned in the hospital. He would alert to sound and if a light came on in a darkened room. Other initial concerns were his difficulty holding his head up when held at an adult's shoulder or when in supported sitting position and difficulty following light in any direction. When toys were placed in his hands, he could hold them for a few seconds. It was decided by the Early Steps evaluation team that the Physical Therapist should provide Early Intervention Services to the family for one hour sessions weekly. As members of the team, his family decided on the following goals: For Levi to respond and be able to play with his family and working toward him catching up in his development.

Initially Levi had difficulty moving in and out of different positions and got upset because he wanted to explore. He also had difficulty tolerating some textures of different foods and he was a quiet baby overall.

Levi is now 14 months old and the outcomes the family and Early Interventionist are working on are for Levi to move on his own safely so he is not so frustrated and to eat a wider variety of foods. This will help him move his lips and tongue better so he will be able to make more sounds so he can communicate verbally. Currently, Levi is crawling on hands and knees, pulling to stand on people and furniture, and cruising along furniture in order to explore. He is eating baby food and some mashed/ground table foods as well as some solids, like crackers. He is making "m", "b", "d", "n", and possibly "w" and "h" sounds. He waves to people and is beginning to clap. He is able to find a string to pull a toy at the other end, so he does not appear to be having any significant visual problems. Overall, he is functioning close to the age when is adjusted for his premature birth. He is a happy boy who is a joy to his family and they are happy with his progress.