

Jada's Story
Changing Perspectives

I entered the world of Early Intervention as a professional back in 1996 shortly after graduating from college. I was hired as a developmental educator, but the role grew to become so much more. I learned about child development from speech, physical and occupational therapists. I developed relationships with so many special families over the years.

Over the passing years I grew both as a professional and in my personal life. I married my husband in May of 2000. In 2004, I gave birth to twin boys at 35 weeks gestation (the most important accomplishment of my life)!

Right from the beginning there were medical and developmental issues for both of my sons, and suddenly I was on the receiving end of Early Intervention services. I found this to be quite a challenge because I felt like I should be able to “fix” all of the issues that were out of my control. It is very different to be on the receiving end of services.

We weathered the storm of speech delay, low muscle tone, feeding issues and sensory processing disorder. We had 2-3 home visiting staff in our home each week between my two boys, and the developmental support they needed. There were days when I just needed to cry from feeling so overwhelmed. My Early Intervention team was always there to support me. I “really” knew what it felt like to be a parent of children in Early Intervention, and it was not easy.

As our boys approached three years of age they began to receive services from our local school system, which is very different from the family friendly EI Program we had grown to love. We adjusted through the ups and downs of IEP (Individualized Education Program) Services and testing through fifth grade. One of my sons no longer required special education services, and the other had his services reduced due to the progress he had made.

My boys are now in seventh grade. Only one of them continues to receive minimal support from special education. They are both active in sports, have lots of friends, and have grown to be two young men we are very proud of.

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