



Hannah

My family has had the privilege of working with Early Intervention (EI) for the past 2 years. My daughter was born prematurely at 29 weeks' and was immediately referred to EI by our pediatrician. Our EI center was fortunate to have an ex-NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) nurse on staff and assigned her to our case.

We were heartbroken and nervous when COVID surfaced in 2020 and we had to transition to Zoom sessions for our weekly Early Intervention. It was definitely a learning curve for everyone involved in telehealth EI but we eventually reached a point where our technical glitches were minimal and we benefited from our virtual EI. As our daughter grew virtual sessions became more difficult. We started to feel like our sessions were spent mainly chasing Amelia around with a computer.

Obviously, we were incredibly excited and eager to resume in-person EI sessions. However, we were also nervous and decided to delay our in-home services for the first month that they were offered. Our center serves several communities that were incredibly hard-hit by the virus, so they resumed in-patient sessions after many other EI centers in Massachusetts. My husband and I were reassured by the caution demonstrated by our EI center regarding resuming in-person visits, however we were still hesitant to welcome people outside our bubble into our home. Our EI specialist understood our hesitancy and we happily met with her at a local playground for our first few sessions. Ultimately, when the vaccination rate rose and the infection rate decreased, we decided that we were comfortable welcoming our specialist into our house again.

We have now safely and happily been doing Early Intervention weekly in our home. Our specialist is wonderful about washing her hands immediately upon entering and all adults appropriately wear their masks. Amelia loves her EI sessions and has been greatly benefiting from her "in-person" sessions. We are thankful for EI and are so grateful for its involvement in Amelia's life!