

Emily's Story

My daughter Emily was born in January 2005. She progressed normally as an infant. Until, 14 months of age. At 14 months old she began to lose some of the things she learned. The first thing to go was her smile, she became stone faced. That broke my heart as a mother. I missed her laugh and her beautiful smile. After that she became so withdrawn. She lost the few words she had. She lost her interest in the many things she loved. She wouldn't say "bubbles" anymore which was one of her favorite things. Everything she did she wanted to do alone. She did not even acknowledge our presence. It really made no difference whether we were present or not.

In July of 2006, she had a well baby check and her pediatrician immediately sent her out for an evaluation, at our Regional Center. She was evaluated by both the Regional Center, as well as our hospital's psychologist. They recommended 6 months of therapy before any diagnosis, because they wanted to see if therapy could pull her out of her regression. They were not sure if it was Autism or not.

By September of 2006 she was in occupational therapy, speech therapy, behavioral therapy. She made little tiny baby steps. Learned a few signs as well as picked up a few words. Her progression was very minimal.

In March of 2007, she was diagnosed with Autism. Even though I knew in my heart she was Autistic, I could never have prepared myself for the diagnosis I got that day. "Linda, your daughter Emily is Autistic". Inside my heart just shattered. I tried not to break down but I did. My baby was sick. Had I done something wrong during pregnancy? Had I been the cause? What happened to my baby?

The scariest thing was that Emily already had 6 months on intensive therapy and she still was diagnosed with Autism. This meant during these 6 months she only got worse. The doctors now knew for sure it was Autism. It was clearly Autism. With all the therapy already in place what hope was there for my little Emily.

There might be hope. I told Emily's Occupational Therapist that Emily spent a lot of time stemming. She was very distracted with her body. She would hit her head on the floor and to do other stimulating things so she could have the sensation of feeling in her body. Therefore, her OT recommended and ordered the TheraTogs suit for these typical Autistic behaviors.

In May of 2007 they had a tutor start coming to my home 5 days a week to work with Emily. The tutor was a tutor specifically for Autistic children under 5 years old. She didn't make any major leaps or bounds with her tutor. I expected her to snap right out of her Autism with this new tutor. I was so excited. I was going to get Emily back. This did not happen. Yet!

In July of 2007 we were approved by the Regional Center, for TheraTogs. TheraTogs brought my baby Emily back to me. It was as if she was in a room with a door cracked open. Any information we were trying to get to her would have to make it through the little tiny crack. However, once TheraTogs came into play, that door flew right open. Now that we had that door wide open the therapy was all getting through the door. Emily was now able to grasp the information that was coming her way. Sure, she doesn't get it all but she is capable of getting a lot more of the information provided to her with the TheraTogs. The TheraTogs have made Emily feel comfortable in her body. She is stemming a lot less, therefore she has a lot more focus and concentration during therapy. She has gone from learning a new activity or word every few weeks to learning and accomplishing a new activity or word everyday. TheraTogs added to Emily's schedule of therapy have given me back my baby. Yes, my baby is back. I have my Emily.

Many children who have Autism also have skin problems like Eczema. Although, Emily had this problem early on it was simply taken care of by taking dairy out her diet. Furthermore, once the TheraTogs came into play, the material did not irritate or flare up her Eczema. To me, the material of the TheraTogs is made of an Eczema friendly material.

I hope that many more parents of Autistic children will give TheraTogs a chance to help get there kids progressing like Emily did. We thank TheraTogs for everything they have helped Emily regain. Don't get me wrong I believe TheraTogs should be included along in a combination with all of the therapy that your child is offered to treat their Autism.

Linda Garite
Emily's Mom
November 2007