



# EASTER SEALS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

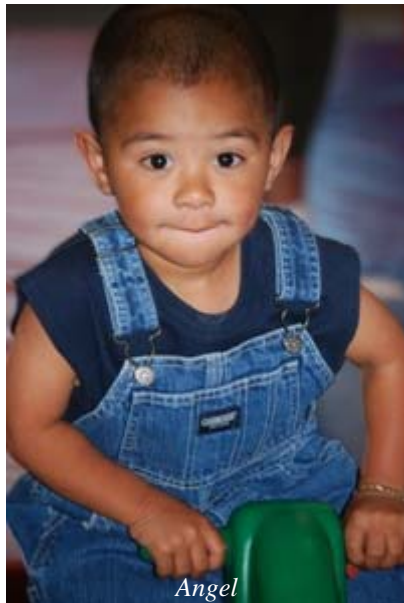
## Anthony and Angel Ponce Rodriguez

*“The most valuable feature of the Easter Seals services we have received is the difference the teachers are making in the lives of my children,” Lizbeth Rodriguez, the twin’s Mom stated.*

Anthony and Angel Ponce Rodriguez were born prematurely at twenty-seven weeks and experienced developmental delays so they were referred to Easter Seals Early Intervention Program. Angel stayed in the hospital for three months after birth and Anthony for five months before going home. Anthony had a tracheostomy due to his paralyzed vocal chords.



Anthony



Angel

Rebecca Sharpe, *Early Intervention Specialist*, worked with the boys in their home one-one-one since they were eight months old. Our Early Intervention program provides support in the child’s natural environment. Home teachers foster family stability by providing parent education and tapping community resources to compliment our services.

The boys began participating in our Rohnert Park Learning Focus Group this spring to develop language, fine and gross motor skills and self-help skills amongst their peers. The group provides a safe and nurturing age and ability-appropriate environment to enhance skills and behaviors children need to be successful in school.

The teacher’s role is to demonstrate interactive coaching skills to Lizbeth and to give her access to information and advocacy skills. “Anthony and Angel are happy, charming little boys who are a

joy. They have wonderful smiles and are developing a delightful sense of humor,” stated teacher Rebecca Sharpe. “Both boys have done really well,” she added.

Lizbeth said, “Anthony and Angel are developing so many new skills and paying attention. They are not fighting so much and they are getting along with the children in the group.” Mom added, “I enjoy interacting and sharing with the other parents too and I am learning so much from them.”



Angel, Mom—Lizbeth, Anthony with teachers Tone Davis and Rebecca Sharpe.



**Help, hope and answers.**  
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