



THE BEACON

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Message from Anne

I love this season! Spring represents newness of life with sunshine and rains causing growth to pop up everywhere you look!

A regular springtime marvel for me is the life revealed when green blades of grass or a beautiful wild flower pushes up through the cracks of hard, gray concrete. Something that initially stops life (like concrete), eventually surrenders instead to that life, its newness and hope.

This is an amazing representation of life here at LLH. Where a diagnosis or a condition spoken over a child seems

to bring limits or perhaps death to a parent's dream, we instead find that with God's sunshine and the rain of love and expertise from the LLH staff, life breaks through...good life, full of growth, joy and potential for each of our beautiful children with special needs.

Thank you for loving and caring for our wonderful Little Light House students the way you do. You are such a great part of bringing our children and their families hope through your love and support.

We pray God's richest blessing over you during this new season of life!


Anne McCoy
Little Light House Executive Director



May 1

Crafts, Laughs, and Building Paths

The title says it all, join us for a craft sale, laughs and help build paths!



May 6 Family Gathering

It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a special village to raise a child who has disabilities.



May 13 Graduation

HOORAY! It's graduation day! Join us as we celebrate all of our students who are graduating!



June 9 Community Luncheon

You're invited for a free lunch and a presentation about Little Light House! Call to RSVP



June 10-11

Shining Light Conference

Attend our SLC, that is presented by leaders in our field.



June 15 Links for Little Ones

Join us for a fun day of golfing and fundraising for our students! Visit littlighthouse.org for more info.

Stepping into the UNKNOWN



By Mom, Rachel Quijada

We found out that Easton was going to have Down syndrome when I was six months pregnant. From then it was a whirlwind of emotion; you don't realize how much you plan out your child's life before they're here. And the moment you become pregnant, you ask yourself, "Who are they going to be? What are they going to like?"

You think about what your future child will be like, and then you find out that the child you've had in your head is not the child you're going to have. You mourn the loss of that child. I knew nothing about Down syndrome. I was walking into it blindly, and that was the scariest part, so much unknown. "What's his future going to be like? How are people going to treat him? Is he going to be able to talk to me? Is he going to be able to walk? Is he going to have heart problems?"

Easton was born two weeks early and had a two-week stay in the NICU before he came home. He had to be on oxygen so his lungs could fully develop. For three months after he was born, he had to stay on oxygen, and he had his pulse ox monitor to let us know if he stopped breathing. I was confined to this little area in my living room with Easton. I couldn't take him into the kitchen. I couldn't take him

into the bathroom. I couldn't take him anywhere. We were stuck in one spot for three months.

We got Easton on the waiting list when he was four months old. He was on the Wait List for almost three years until we got the call that he could attend. When he started coming to LLH is when I realized how much I didn't know. I bought a book when

I was pregnant, and I thought, "I'm going to read this book, and hopefully I'm going to know everything I need to know." That is not at all what happened. I came to LLH, and people say, your child needs orthotics, and I would say, "Come again, what are orthotics?" I didn't realize how much I didn't know.

The Little Light House is the happiest place on earth. You walk into this place, and you feel God's presence. It's a place that a parent doesn't have to worry about sending their child. To think about when he is six, and he has to go somewhere else. "Will they love him as everybody at LLH does?" "Is he going to be safe?" "Is he going to be taken care of?" And you know that at LLH, the answer to those questions is, **yes**. You know that your child is so loved by the people that work here. It means a lot to a parent to feel like their child is safe when they go to school; it means the world to us parents. **Thank you Little Light House for making us feel safe.**

walking
into it
blindly



Why I Work Here

- Michelle Morris, teacher

I often passed the Little Light House when I would drive around Tulsa. The building always caught my interest growing up. I had an idea of what happened there, but I never understood the work's magnitude until I began working on staff. In my senior year of college, I was very discouraged about my future and career. I struggled with what I would do if I couldn't work with children or adults with special needs. My degree was in health, but I could feel God leading me in another direction.

One day, the Little Light House posted a part-time associate opening, and I applied immediately. I even applied while on the clock of my job. I was so excited. I had zero experience with children with special needs, but I knew God was calling me here.

Two days after I graduated from college, I started my career at Little Light House. I was nervous about stepping into this new role. I was a college student and a student athletic trainer two days

before jumping into this new role. I knew how to love, nurture, and be flexible, which is crucial for this job. I quickly learned that our students at Little Light House are just like any other children I have ever been around. They want the same thing and have the same needs. I quickly picked up how to care for the kids and loved coming to work every day.

The following year, a teaching position opened up, and again, I applied immediately. I didn't have my teaching degree, so I knew I would have to go back to school, but I truly felt like God opened the doors for me to help even more. I started back to school in 2017 and am finishing my teaching certification this year. I am incredibly grateful for the Little Light House to allow me the opportunity to work and go back to school. It bettered my life and future. Of course, all of this couldn't have been done without spending time with the Lord as he guided my steps with the Little Light House. This fall will be my fifth year at LLH, and I wouldn't trade for the world.

What is Early Intervention?

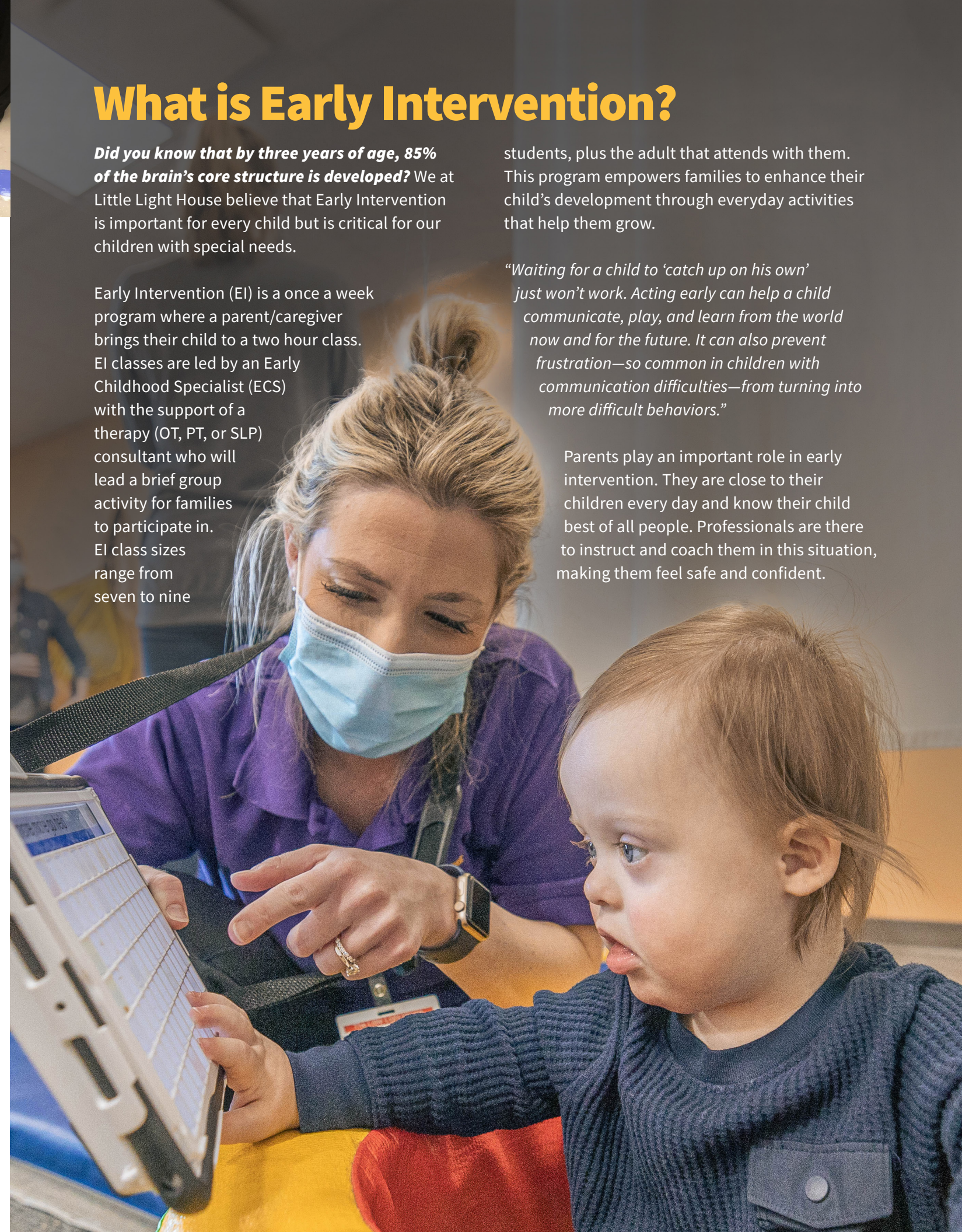
Did you know that by three years of age, 85% of the brain's core structure is developed? We at Little Light House believe that Early Intervention is important for every child but is critical for our children with special needs.

Early Intervention (EI) is a once a week program where a parent/caregiver brings their child to a two hour class. EI classes are led by an Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) with the support of a therapy (OT, PT, or SLP) consultant who will lead a brief group activity for families to participate in. EI class sizes range from seven to nine

students, plus the adult that attends with them. This program empowers families to enhance their child's development through everyday activities that help them grow.

"Waiting for a child to 'catch up on his own' just won't work. Acting early can help a child communicate, play, and learn from the world now and for the future. It can also prevent frustration—so common in children with communication difficulties—from turning into more difficult behaviors."

Parents play an important role in early intervention. They are close to their children every day and know their child best of all people. Professionals are there to instruct and coach them in this situation, making them feel safe and confident.





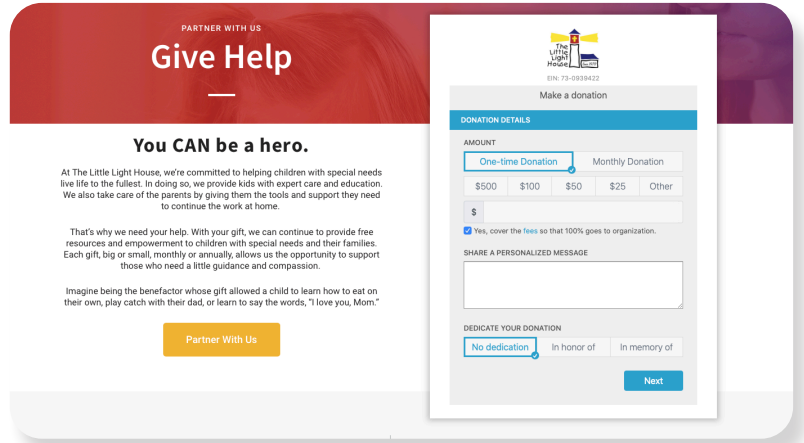
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The Little Light House, Inc is a non-profit Christian Developmental Center for children with disabilities, age birth to six years of age. The Little Light House does not discriminate on the basis of religion, sex, color, race, national or ethnic origin, or medical diagnosis (unless the diagnosis affects the child's ability to attend school on a regular basis) in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other school administered programs. Some behavioral conditions may be evaluated on individual basis. The Little Light House assures that all children's records will be maintained as confidential.