

Early Start Family Stories Video Transcript – Episode 2

- Hi, my name is Kaitlynn Truong. I have two children. Leo is five years old and Amelia is 13 months old. We live with my parents as well in Orange County. I am a cultural specialist at the Regional Center. I joined Regional Center when Leo was seven months. And at that time, cuz Leo was my first child, I didn't know anything about child development. And my role at regional center is not a service coordinator so I didn't have a lot of knowledge about child development either. I worked as a different role at Regional Center so I didn't know anything about that. But good thing was we were talking to one of the coworker and I kind of shared about Leo's, how Leo's doing. And then she say, oh no you gotta send Leo to regional center because it seems like he needs some services and that's how it started. And then after that I realized that, oh yeah, she might be right. Leo needs some help. And I start searching for information. I contact Regional Center. I contact one of my colleague and asked for some of the material to read about it. And then after that I decide to to contact Regional Center to get Leo evaluated. So Leo received services from Regional Center of Orange County since he was around 15 months. At that time, he was very shy. He doesn't talk, he doesn't babble. He was very picky eater. He didn't eat a lot of food. He's still eating puree food up until two and a half years old. When we get him evaluated with the Regional Center, he was evaluated and they was telling me that he have, he was globally delay with a lot of, you know delay in communication, fine motor, gross motor. But now he's five. He's in kindergarten now. Very active, talk a lot, and love to make friends. I have a wonderful experience with early start program from the get go, from intake process to the service coordinator. My service coordinator, she is bilingual in Vietnamese which helps a lot also with the vendor as well. We have a lot of choices in Orange County, which is a plus. So my experience with early start is always wonderful. And compared to prior to early start, I mean I was very nervous seeing Leo delay in many area and then now after that Leo's can improve and develop as normal, which is, which is amazing. And I would like to share a story that prior to Regional Center, when I talked to my parent about having Leo assessed for Regional Center services, my parent was very upset with me, especially my dad. He was like, no. How come you telling me that my grandson is abnormal? He's not disability. He's very normal. And we are Vietnamese. Don't use American standard to compare my grandson. And he was very upset and there's a time he stopped talking to me. But you know, as a mother, I know what my child need. I know what he need. And I, I think that as a mother I have to step up and provide him with what he needs so that he can improve and develop. So I decided, you know, I'm just gonna move forward with the process and I deal with my parents later. So I get him services and after few months receiving services seeing my son improve through the session my parent was very happy and they now become a strong advocate for the early start program. As a parent, you know your child best. So if you feel like there's something odd about your child, don't be hesitant. You have to seek help because, you know, parent instinct is very important. Don't let other thought or the barrier just like the barrier that I bump into about family culture stop you from seeking services for your child. Act now because the first three years is very critical for the child development. And just like my son, if I don't be strong enough my son probably didn't get the services that he need and he wouldn't be advanced just like himself now. So don't wait, just call Regional Center or call other services that you think that might be benefit for your child and get help. Worst case that if he's not qualified, meaning at least you know that they evaluate it and you know exactly where your child at. And then you know that which services that will help your child. So act now, don't wait.

- [Narrator] If you are having concerns about your child's development or would like more information about California's early start program please call 1-800-515-BABY. That's 1-800-515-22-29.