

The best of both worlds

Our daughter Grace started Early Intervention at Stepping Stones just after her first birthday. She had been receiving EI services at home and these were outstanding. The center based model at Stepping Stones was a wonderful addition to Grace's early education. At home she received her services one-on-one from therapists in the family environment. At Stepping Stones she was in a group of children working with therapists who had expertise in the needs of children with Down syndrome. The two types of services complemented each other. The home services allowed all of our family members to learn what they could do to help Grace within our unique family. Stepping Stones' experts provided therapy geared specifically toward Grace's unique needs that come with Down syndrome.

Just as valuable as the therapies themselves was the community of Stepping Stones. We made friends with families going through the same things as we were. Our older children were welcome to come and were cared for while we attended therapy or the support group. And when Grace transitioned into pre-school, her time in Stepping Stones early intervention prepared her for the group experience that she would have in pre-school. Had she just received her services at home, this would have been a much more challenging transition for her.

Grace has moved on from Early Intervention to pre-school without having to leave Stepping Stones. Her school district knows well Stepping Stones' expertise in the needs of children with Down syndrome. Her therapists from Stepping Stones' Early Intervention either still treat her or provided input to make her transition smooth.

Stepping Stones has helped not only Grace but our whole family learn everything we need to know to help our precious daughter reach her full potential.