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CPD Legacy Story: Eric Lewis

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This Legacy Story is written by the mother of two of our CPD staff members, Gina Cook, Research Associate and Evaluator, and Amy Wolters who works on the National Children's Study.

Sandy Lewis shares with us the impact that the CPD programs (back then known as the Exceptional Child Center-ECC) had on her son, Eric.

Written by Sandy Lewis

Our son, Eric, was born Oct. 5, 1977; he had a brain hemorrhage when he was six hours old. It left him with severe Cerebral Palsy. As a new parent of a disabled child, where do you turn to find out the things that you need to do to help him achieve his best potential? I don't remember exactly how old Eric was when we were first contacted by the Exceptional Child Center, but it was pretty early.

First of all, people were sent to our home to give us their expertise, their ideas, and their suggestions to help him achieve whatever level was possible. They had great ideas that really helped us and our family.

When he was a little older, he started attending the Exceptional Child Center preschool program. Connie Morgan was his teacher, she was amazing. She loved all the children in her classroom and we, as parents, appreciated so much the things that she did for our son. She not only cared about our son, she cared about our whole family.

One of my favorite things that happened while Eric was attending the Exceptional Child Center was the annual Christmas program. Eric was so excited to be a part of it. Every year that the program was held, it was the highlight of our Christmas season. I remember one year, Eric and Sydney D. were both reindeer. They were so cute with their antlers and their wheelchairs decorated. After the Christmas program, Sydney told us that when they were 8, she and Eric where going to be married. Sydney has since passed away.

Eric made lots of great friends during his time at the ECC.

Oh, what special memories we have of the time our son, Eric, spent at the Exceptional Child Center. We are so grateful for all the help they gave us to help make his life better...and ours. We will always have a fond place in our hearts for all those who worked so hard and loved Eric and made his life better.
Thanks,

Sandy and Ty Lewis