



Easter Seals Centre County United Way Partner Agency

When we started with [Easter Seals](#), a Centre County United Way partner agency, our daughter struggled with many things related to sensory processing. The way her brain perceives information about textures, movement and sounds is different than other kids her age. Every morning was a struggle to get ready for school, because the seams in Jillian's socks and other clothing drove her crazy. We got to the point where she could only tolerate a few outfits.

Because her sensory processing difficulties interfered with her daily life, Jillian was referred to Easter Seals by her pediatrician and was evaluated by an occupational therapist and a physical therapist. They found areas of difficulty and designed a treatment plan specifically for Jillian.

Jillian also walks on her toes a lot because she says her feet "feel funny" when she puts them all the way down. We learned from her therapists that this is caused by her sensory processing difficulties. Her therapists, Miss Wendy (Occupational Therapist) and Miss Mari (Physical Therapist) taught us many strategies to help Jillian with her overall development. In addition to her sensory difficulties with clothing and shoes, she also has a hard time with balance and core strength.

Since beginning therapy at Easter Seals, Jillian has shown much more confidence with climbing, running, jumping and playing on the playground with her peers at school. She also falls less frequently. While she still struggles with sensory processing, we were taught strategies to help her overcome these difficulties.

Easter Seals has had a big impact on our family through education about sensory processing disorder and providing exercises to strengthen and stretch Jillian's legs and core muscles. Jillian does not get nearly as frustrated with sensory input as she used to, and she is able to "keep up" with her peers.

I am most grateful to Jillian's therapists. They are gifted professionals who just "get it", they know kids. Therapy at Easter Seals is playtime. The therapists do not just give Jillian exercises to do they play with her and make exercise and strength building activities fun. They also relate to me, as a parent. They understand the frustration of having a child that cannot just put on her socks and shoes without throwing a tantrum.

We are so glad we found the help we needed at Easter Seals. Easter Seals is committed to helping kids of all abilities to overcome their specific challenges, and we are proud to be a part of the Easter Seals family.