

The Rivera Family Story



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— Noemi

Noemi and Edwin could hardly wait to hold their new babies. But two long months passed before they could even touch them. Little Joshua and twin sister Grace were born at 23 weeks gestational age, long before they were ready to breathe on their own or open their eyes to the lights of the neonatal intensive care unit. Doctors gave lots of frightening information and every day was a challenge, both for the babies and their worried parents. “I was impressed and happy to bring Joshua home for the first time but I also felt upset as I still had Grace at the hospital”, said Noemi. “I felt my goal was incomplete.”

Hospital staff referred Joshua for Birth to Three supports and his parents eagerly accepted them. “Mom and Dad are phenomenal”, said Eulini, their service coordinator. She began working with Joshua, Noemi and Edwin soon after he arrived home. Jennifer, the occupational therapist on the team chimed in: “We love this family! They are so involved and have awesome follow through. We talk about ideas for improving Joshua’s development and Mom and Dad take charge and use those techniques all week.”

When Grace came home eight months after birth, the team was already in place and Noemi and Edwin felt relieved and ready to move forward. “Sometimes it is overwhelming but Birth to Three motivates me and I can talk with them about all my worries – they never judge me, says Mom.” Their service coordinator says, “Every time I walk into their home I am eager to see what they have improved on and when I walk out of their home I know they will be okay because Mom is so involved in the wellbeing of her children. They have taught me to have faith and patience and always believe things will be alright. Joshua was the cutest little peanut when I first held him and he has grown into a fun loving and energetic child. Grace has the bubbliest personality and tries so hard.”



Joshua and Grace just celebrated their first birthday. Noemi says, "I am impressed with what God has given me. Medicine is not always right and they pulled through so many surgeries. Edwin says, "They came into our world very small and under-developed and have come so far. We are not worried because we know they are in good hands."

"Mom and Dad are phenomenal. We love this family!"

— Birth to Three team
