

# one Family, Two children

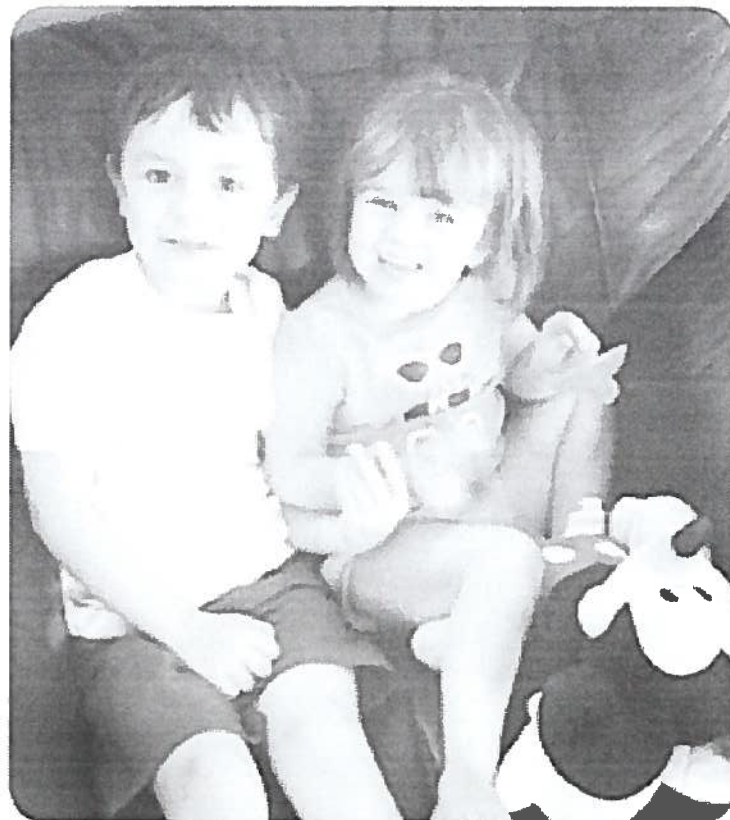
## A Story of Successful Transition

**G**loucester County resident, Andrea Targonski is a mother of two young children, Sean and Elizabeth, both of whom went through New Jersey's Early Intervention System. (For the privacy of her children, Targonski asked that their real names not be used.)

Sean, now 4, received speech and developmental intervention. His progress was so dramatic that there was no need for transition to special education preschool, but for his sister, Elizabeth, things were different. Following a transition process that began last spring, Elizabeth started attending the preschool disabled program in Glassboro public schools, only days after her third birthday.

"I cannot say enough good things about the therapists from St. John of God who worked with Elizabeth and helped us through the transition. When she was two, we had the initial transition planning meeting, with the service coordinator, one of Elizabeth's therapists from St. John of God, and the psychologist from our school district. They answered all of my questions and gave me a great overview of the system and how it works," said Targonski.

When it came time to develop the IEP and determine placement this fall, Targonski said she felt ready.



Sean and Elizabeth on the couch with Mickey.  
—photo from the family

"We looked at the classrooms the district offered. They assured us that we, as parents, would be making the final decisions about Elizabeth's services and placement," she said.

"I feel fortunate to live in a district that offers a top notch preschool program. I feel like they want to help her as much as we do and they will get her the services she needs. I hear horror stories about children who are sent out, but we live in a town where the services are all right here."

While Targonski's experience was positive, she admits that there was a "certain level of bureaucracy and red tape."

"The service coordinator's doors were always open to us," she said.

"No one wants their child to need Early Intervention, but I thank God that the services were here," said Targonski. "I would tell other parents this: Don't hesitate to call. The evaluation is free and the worst thing that can happen is you learn your child does not need services. But if they do, you get what you need."