

Hi,

My name is Angela Krambeer, and I am the Parent Liaison with Child & Family Connections Early Intervention Program in McHenry County. I am also the LIC/ECN Coordinator for the program.

This position combines my personal experiences with my professional ones. I have been married to my husband Chris since 1992 and are the parents of 3 boys. Our first son Travis was stillborn in 1998. In 1999 Ryan was born, and then in 2001 we had Dylan.

Dylan was born with Prader-Willi syndrome. He spent the first 2 weeks of life in the NICU and then came home with an NG tube and oxygen. That first year and a half was intense and emotional. We were thrilled to expand our family, but had a long road ahead of us with all the medical and developmental challenges that came with Dylan's diagnosis. The one thing outside of my family support that helped me through my journey was Early Intervention. Dylan was referred while he was still in the hospital and almost immediately upon our discharge, we were contacted by our Service Coordinator to help us get started with the Early Intervention process. We were surrounded by an incredible team of professionals that supported our family and guided us along the way through this journey. Dylan was globally delayed, so at some time or another, we had experienced almost all of the services that Early Intervention offered. Dylan learned how to breath, eat, crawl, stand, walk, talk, and so much more through the providers that worked with him. It wasn't always easy, but it was always beneficial. I believe the services he received helped him create a foundation for all of his future successes. It was literally life changing for us. The providers taught my family how to incorporate the strategies necessary into our everyday routines and activities. This was so helpful because we did not want our lives to revolve around his challenges and therapy, but instead we wanted our lives to revolve around being a family. Ryan was a great model and motivator for Dylan, so the providers incorporated him into our strategies. The program is really family focused. This gave me peace of mind. My team was extremely supportive and I leaned on them a lot, including the Parent Liaison for resources and validation.

One of the unique qualifications for a Parent Liaison is having a child that has gone through Early Intervention. When Dylan was about 1.5 years old, there was an opening for Parent Liaison at Child & Family Connections, and I was able to start this new chapter that brought my worlds together. I worked in this role for about 5 years before leaving to better manage Dylan's medical needs and after about 8 years, had the opportunity to return to this role. I LOVE being a Parent Liaison and love helping others on their journey; no matter how big or small it is.

Regardless of your reasons for seeking Early Intervention services, it is always helpful to have additional support. As parents, it hurts us when our children struggle. Having a team work with your family is empowering. I want to share in your struggles, celebrate your victories, and help guide you through this chapter of your story. Are you looking for resources, or someone to listen to you without judgement that empathizes with you? I want to connect with you and hopefully provide you some of the same support I was gifted so many years ago when I started my journey. Please don't hesitate to reach out. I really do look forward to connecting with you.

Best Wishes,

Angela Krambeer