

## Cody's Miracle

**L**ike any healthy four-year old boy, Cody Kinnison was thrilled to be climbing on a shiny red fire engine. He and his brother Drew were visiting the Huntington Beach Fire Department for a special reason: One week earlier, two of the paramedics now looking on had been struggling to save Cody's life.

On that January day in 1995, Drew saw Cody run past the family room and down the hall towards the bathroom. Sensing something was wrong, Drew scurried after his brother, reaching Cody just as he collapsed. Drew yelled for their father, then tried the Heimlich maneuver he recently learned at school — but whatever was lodged in Cody's throat would not budge. By this time, their father had reached the boys and told Drew to call 911.

"The call came in stating that a young boy was having difficulty breathing," recalls Captain Paramedic Guy Burnell. He and two other paramedics responded to the call, arriving on the scene only minutes later. They found Cody pale and no longer breathing. Guy took the child's pulse and mentally ran through the training he'd received just a few weeks earlier at a special pediatric airway management class. "At that point," says Guy, "I could see the object looked like a jawbreaker. But it was covered with tissue and blood."

Guy tried basic measures to remove the object and it seemed to move a little. However, in his efforts to breathe, Cody sucked it back down. Seconds went by. Guy then tried the new child-sized equipment he'd received with his recent training: a laryngoscope and a pair of McGill forceps, which look something like salad tongs. Again, Cody's attempts to breathe foiled his efforts. More seconds passed.

By this time Mike McKay, a senior paramedic who'd accompanied Guy on many calls, arrived on the scene and slipped into position as his partner. "We decided to give the McGill forceps one more try," says Mike. "And working as a team, with Guy inserting the laryngoscope and me working the forceps, the object came free." In the same moment, Cody took a breath. It was a save!

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## Working to Save Children's Lives ... Every Step of The Way

**S**aving a child's life not only requires specialized equipment and training like that which saved Cody's life. It also takes a thorough understanding of just how different children are from adults — both physically and emotionally. This special focus on children must be present before, during and after all medical emergencies — from injury prevention and prehospital services to care in the emergency department and rehabilitation.

Since 1984, the US Congress has funded a grant program that helps states expand children's access to proper emergency care while at the same time improving the quality of such care. The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program encourages states and localities to enhance their emergency medical systems to benefit children in ways unheard of just ten years ago.



Injury  
Prevention



Bystander  
Care



**J**ust over a decade ago, Emergency Medical Services for Children was active in four states. Today EMSC has established a solid presence in over 40 states and territories, working to ensure that EMS systems across the country provide the proper care critically ill and injured children need.

## How The Program Works

Each spring, the availability of grant funding is noted in the Federal Register, which highlights the total amount of grant monies available for that particular year as well as specific guidelines on how, where and when to apply.

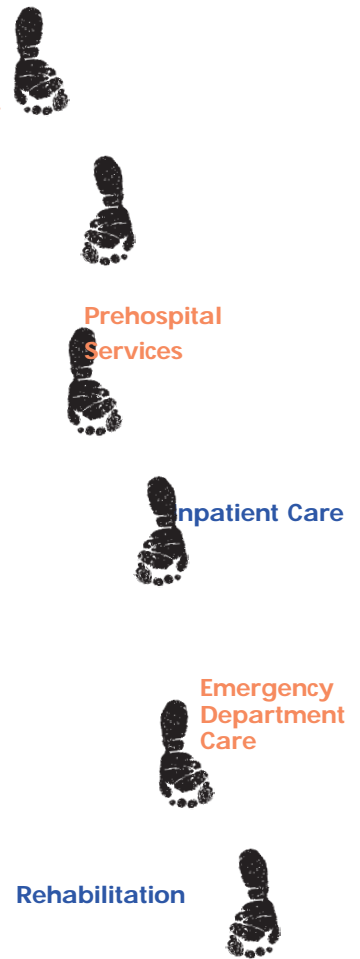
Those interested — typically state health departments and schools of medicine — submit their proposals for review by a panel of physicians, nurses and paramedics. Only those proposals deemed best able to address the emergency medical needs of children are funded. Initial projects are usually funded for a period of one year, with grantees submitting requests for further funding in each of the following two years.

## Most Importantly, This Program...

- ✓ Enhances emergency care by integrating the needs of severely ill or injured children into existing EMS systems,
- ✓ Trains and educates EMS personnel to effectively handle pediatric emergencies,
- ✓ Works to prevent pediatric emergencies by supporting injury prevention programs,
- ✓ Saves money by stimulating partnerships between grantees, local agencies and community organizations.

This nationwide effort to address the needs of seriously ill or injured children is supported by the EMSC National Resource Center. Strategically located in Washington, DC, this center provides both grantees and the public access to a staff with extensive knowledge of pediatric emergencies. If you would like further information about the EMSC Program, please do not hesitate to contact:

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**EMSC:**  
*A Child's Life Could Depend On It!*

