

Early Intervention Services for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Introduction

There are three birth-to-3 programs in the community dedicated to helping families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Each of these programs is committed to helping the children reach their language and learning potential. The programs differ in the type of communication system that they help the child and family develop. Below is a brief summary description of each program. Families and other caregivers are encouraged to visit each of the programs prior to making a decision on which program in which to enroll. Contact information for each program is provided on the back of this sheet.



Seattle Children's
HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Family Conversations

Family Conversations is a Total Communication Early Intervention program based out of Seattle Children's Hospital in eight counties throughout western Washington. Family Conversations is committed to working with families to enhance the parent-child relationship. Families are taught to use both visual communication (Signing Exact English, speech reading and gestures) and auditory/listening skills simultaneously to establish clear communication with their child. Specialists meet weekly with each family in the child's natural environment. Regional Family Support Groups for children and parents are available and are designed to help families learn about issues in raising a child who is deaf or hard-of-hearing. The specialized curriculum used is designed to enhance, language, speech, literacy and learning. Families learn methods and strategies to share their personal values and culture across the literacy continuum while building language and relationships. Family Conversations strongly support the use of hearing aids, cochlear implants and FM systems.



Hearing, Speech
& Deafness Center

The Parent-Infant Program (PIP) at the Hearing, Speech & Deafness works with the child's entire family to strengthen family communication and cohesiveness through learning speech, listening, sign language, cued speech and other communication methods depending on the child's and family's needs. The 57 year old program provides for a weekly structured playgroup, to help children learn American Sign Language (ASL), spoken English supported by Cued Speech, and other communication strategies. In addition, specialists visit the home twice a month to work with families in the child's natural environment and train in the Shared Reading Project equipping families to build literacy in children with hearing loss. Additional services are available which include ASL classes, weekly support groups for adult family members and siblings, and Speech Language and Audiology services and assistive technology.



Listen and Talk is committed to helping children with hearing loss and deafness develop spoken communication. No sign language is used. The Listen and Talk Parent-Infant Program consists of two parts: Auditory-Verbal Therapy and Parent -Toddler Play Groups. To make learning to listen and speak as natural as possible, Listen and Talk's Early Intervention Specialists act as coaches, teaching the child's family/caregivers how to work with their child in a natural, playful way. Families gain an understanding of the process of listening and talking. Then, through modeling and practice they continue to teach their child to respond to and interpret sound in a meaningful way. These sessions build a foundation upon which language learning will continue throughout a child's daily life. Listen and Talk's Parent-Toddler Group gives children, families and professionals another chance to learn from each other. Listen and Talk also offers Family Groups specifically addressing needs related to Unilateral Hearing Loss.



Seattle Children's®
HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Ann Curry, Program Coordinator – Family Conversations |Audiology

ann.curry@seattlechildrens.org

206-987-5146 Office
425-478-0014 Cell
206-987-2686 Fax

Office: 4800 Sand Point Wy NE

Mail: M/S W-6640, PO Box 5371, Seattle, WA 98105-0371

www.seattlechildrens.org



Hearing, Speech
& Deafness Center

Karen Stueland, ME – Early Childhood Education Director

Kstueland@hsdc.org

Susie Burdick, CEO
sburdick@hsdc.org

1625 19th Ave
Seattle, WA 98122
206-323-5770
www.hsdc.org



Kim Hamren, Parent Infant Coordinator
kimh@listentalk.org

Suzanne Quigley, Executive Director
suzanneq@listentalk.org
8610 8th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115
206-985-6646
206-985-6687

www.listentalk.org

5/6/2009