

Get Connected!



Universal
Newborn Hearing
Screening Program

Support for families can be offered in many ways. Some parents benefit from a support group, others would just like a chance to meet other families in a social setting. Organizations on this list offer a variety of approaches and experiences. Some are open to all families, others are for families who receive services through their organization already. Any questions? Call us at 800-882-1435 or email newborn.hearing@state.ma.us.

Auditory-Verbal Communication Center (AVCC)

544 Washington Street, Gloucester, MA 01930

Contact: Lea Donovan Watson, leadwatson@gmail.com, 978-282-0025, www.avcclisten.com

AVCC offers parent groups and family get-togethers for parents who attend AVCC for auditory-verbal therapy. The frequency of meetings is dependent on the need of the families in the program.

Boston Children's Hospital – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

9 Hope Avenue, Waltham, MA 02453

Contact: Katie McCarthy, Katie.mccarthy@childrens.harvard.edu, 781-209-5301, www.childrenshospital.org/dhph

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Boston Children's Hospital provides comprehensive evaluation and consultative services to deaf and hard of hearing infants, children and adolescents with recently identified or previously diagnosed hearing loss. This evaluation can serve as a baseline to monitor a child's developmental progress, aid in decision making, and contribute to planning for services according to health care, therapeutic and educational needs. Additional support services are provided through educational consulting services, family-centered events, Topics of Interest for Parent Support (TIPS) Group, educational transition seminars, and additional resources. Boston Children's Hospital activities are available to patients and their families that are seen through the hospital.

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech

45 Round Hill Road, Northampton, MA 01060

Contact: Martha A. deHahn, mdehahn@clarkeschools.org, 413-587-7387, www.clarkeschools.org

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech offers a continuum of services for families and their children who are deaf and hard of hearing from birth through high school including early intervention, school program (preschool through grade eight) and mainstream services (consulting and itinerant teachers). Families in the Parent-Infant/Toddler and preschool may join weekly scheduled parent groups. Other activities for families, middle school students and teens are scheduled throughout the year. Our Comprehensive Educational Evaluations provide in-depth understanding of a child's needs due to their hearing loss. Please visit clarkeschools.org/about/events to learn more.

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech

1 Whitman Road, Canton, MA 02021

Contact: Barbara Hecht, bhecht@clarkeschools.org, 781-821-3499, www.clarkeschools.org

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech offers parent education/support groups weekly in conjunction with our parent-toddler group. Monthly "Coffee and Conversation" are scheduled for families in our preschool/kindergarten program. Clarke/Boston provides services from birth through high school including early intervention, preschool, kindergarten and mainstream services (consulting and itinerant teachers).

Family TIES (Together In Enhancing Support) Parent-to-Parent Program

Contact: Gloria Klaesges, gloria@fcsn.org, 800-905-8437, www.massfamilyties.org

The Parent-to-Parent Program brings together parents facing similar challenges in raising their children with special needs. Information and support is provided over the phone by other parents. There are many parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing available to provide support and share their experiences.

Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center—Pediatric Hearing Loss and Cochlear Implant Program

800 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111

Contact: Susan McDonald, smcdonald@tuftsmedicalcenter.org, 617-636-9051

Our program provides support to families and caregivers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing through our team's social worker. In addition to psychosocial and emotional support, we provide education and information regarding specialty services, parent support, resources and opportunities in the community.

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Hear My Dreams

435 King Street, Suite 2 Littleton, MA 01460

Contact: Megan D. Ford, hearmydreams@gmail.com, 978-952-2500, www.hearmydreams.com

Hear My Dreams is a support group for parents and caregivers of children with hearing loss of any degree or type regardless of communication type/hearing aids/CI, etc. We meet every second Tuesday of every odd numbered month from 7PM-9PM. Often, there is a guest speaker to provide an educational component. Check the website for up to date details.

Hear My Dreams—North

81 Bridge Street, Beverly, MA 01915 (The Children's Piazza)

Contact: Megan Hoben, hearmydreams@gmail.com, www.hearmydreams.com

Hear My Dreams is a support group for parents and caregivers of children with hearing loss of any degree or type regardless of communication type/hearing aids/CI, etc. We meet every second Wednesday of every even numbered month from 7PM-9PM.

Hear Together

Contact: Cathleen Guiliani, 508-889-7733, heartogether123@gmail.com

Hear Together is a local support group for families with children who have all degrees of hearing loss in Plymouth and surrounding areas. We hold group meetings from September-June and host social events for families including playground play dates and holiday activities.

Massachusetts A.G. Bell

Contact: Caitlin Parton, massagbell@gmail.com, massagbell.org

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing holds social events for children of all ages, primarily aged 8 through 18. You do not need to be a member of the national A.G. Bell Association to participate, although members do not have to pay as much to attend events (however, costs are also low for nonmembers). We do not hold regular meetings and instead meet for social outings.

Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Children's Specialists

Contact: Melissa Adams, 800-882-1155, <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mcdhh/>

Children's Specialists provide support services to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing throughout the state. We provide parent education, advocacy and support. We work with families throughout Early Intervention and into school years. Families are assigned to a children's specialist based on their geographic region.

Massachusetts Eye and Ear

243 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02110

Contact: Cheryl Bakey, Cheryl_Bakey@meei.harvard.edu, 617-573-5630

The team of audiologists, pediatric otologists and speech-language pathologists at Massachusetts Eye and Ear provide comprehensive care to children who have hearing loss. In addition to individualized parent support, we informally connect parents/families by the child's age and geographic location and organize larger group activities including an annual family carnival for children with hearing loss held at our Boston location. These services are provided to children who receive services at our facility and their families.

Massachusetts Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Department of Public Health, 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Contact: Sarah Stone, sarah.stone@state.ma.us, 617-624-5912, www.mass.gov/dph/newbornhearingscreening

The Newborn Hearing Screening Program provides supports to families through parent to parent connections, learning opportunities as well as social gatherings. Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MassNewbornHearingScreening/> to learn about the latest news and events.

Minute Man Arc Early Intervention Program for Children with Hearing Loss and their Families

1269 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742

Contact: Priscilla Wilcox, pwilcox@minutemanarc.org, 978-287-7983

Our mission is to provide comprehensive services for children with hearing loss (birth to three years) and their families. Services are provided both within a baby group, a toddler group, and individual 1:1 therapy sessions. The families of children enrolled in this program are eligible to participate in a parent support group (Wednesday, 11:00-12:30) and a sign language class (Friday, 11:00-12:30). These parent groups provide opportunities for emotional support, education, guest speakers within the field, and the option to learn sign language. Topics for discussion are based on the group's preference. Children enrolled in any EI Program in eastern/central Massachusetts may enroll in this specialized program upon completion of a waiver from the Department of Public Health.

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READS Collaborative, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program

64 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766

Contact: Evelyn Rankin, ERankin@readscollab.org, 508-947-3634 x303, www.readscollab.org

READS DHH Program is a specialty service provider for the Department of Public Health's Early Intervention program and provides a variety of services which can be accessed as needed by families. Services include home visits, playgroups, parent support groups, teacher of the deaf and speech/language services as well as ASL classes. The services are available with varying degrees of frequency, depending on the needs of the child. These can also be provided in conjunction with the primary EI centers and/or other DHH Early Intervention services. Families are referred by their local EI center for services.

Shared Reading Project, Southeastern MA

Contact: Kerin Towne, ktowne@gmail.com, 203-912-8973, <https://www.facebook.com/SharedReadingSEMA/>

Shared Reading Saturdays are designed to teach parents and caregivers how to read to their children who are deaf or hard of hearing using American Sign Language, and to use strategies to make book sharing most effective. It is offered twice a year, in the fall and spring. Families are shown the story in a large group and break up into smaller groups to practice with individual tutors. Children are involved in an organized activity while their parents learn the story and then come back together to share the story with the support of the tutors. Each family brings home a book bag at the end of the day.

Shared Reading Saturdays, Gallaudet University Regional Center at Northern Essex Community College, Lawrence Campus

Contact: Todd Higgins, gurc.necc@gallaudet.edu, 978-556-3701, <http://www.necc.mass.edu/blog/2010/09/08/shared-reading-saturday-program/>

Shared Reading Saturdays are designed to teach parents and caregivers how to read to their children who are deaf or hard of hearing using American Sign Language, and to use strategies to make book sharing most effective. It is offered monthly from September to June. Families are shown the story in a large group and break up into smaller groups to practice with individual tutors. Children are involved in an organized activity while their parents learn the story and then come back together to share the story with the support of the tutors. Each family brings home a book bag at the end of the day.

Thayer Lindsley Family-Centered Program at Emerson College

216 Tremont Street, 7th floor, Boston, MA 02116

Contact: Lynn Conners, Lynn_Conners@emerson.edu, 617-824-8323

Parent Support group meets weekly, on Thursday mornings, following the Emerson College academic calendar. Parents of any child with a hearing loss between the ages birth-three enrolled in Early Intervention are welcome to join; on site babysitting by undergraduate student volunteers can be arranged for infants ages birth to 18 months.

The Learning Center for the Deaf, Early Childhood Center

848 Central Street, Framingham, MA 01701

Contact: Jayme Roberts, Early Childhood Director, Jayme_Robertson@tlcdeaf.org, Mary Jane Huru, Family Liaison, Mary_JaneHuru@tlcdeaf.org or Sarah_Honigfeld@tlcdeaf.org, Parent Infant Program Coordinator

The Early Childhood Center at the Learning Center for the Deaf offers programming for deaf and hard of hearing children from birth through age 6. Our Parent Infant Program, for children birth through age 3, is a specialty service provider for the Department of Public Health's Early Intervention Program. Offerings include home visits, playgroups, parent support groups, individual speech/language therapy and ASL classes. Our weekly parent support group is open to families in our preschool and kindergarten programs as well. This group, led by a school psychologist and our Family Liaison, offers a combination of discussion groups and informational meetings. Speakers are invited to share information of interest to the parents.

UMass Memorial Medical Center—Hearing Implant and Hearing Improvement Programs

Contact: Nicole Seymour, 508-856-3996, umassmemorialhealthcare.org/audiology

The Hearing Implant Program and Hearing Improvement Center both offer comprehensive services to deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. Our multidisciplinary team includes audiologists, otologists, a psychologist and a social worker. Our Hear Always support groups are open to adults and families of children with hearing impairment who may be considering rehabilitative options. This includes patients and families who are considering or have hearing aids, or are considering or have a cochlear implant. You do not have to be a patient of UMass to attend any of these meetings. Please refer to the website and our Facebook page for date, time and location of these meetings. www.facebook.com/umassmemorialaudiology



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*Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program
250 Washington Street, 5th Floor,
Boston, MA 02108
Toll Free Information: 800-882-1435
TTY: 617-624-5992
Newborn.Hearing@state.ma.us
<http://www.mass.gov/dph/newbornhearingscreening>*