



MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

www.mass.gov/mcdhh



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Marylou Sudders
Secretary HHS

Patricia Ford
Acting Commissioner

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The **Children and Family Services** at Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides unique support services to families with children who are Deaf or hard of hearing throughout the Commonwealth.

Children Specialists are carefully selected staff experienced in working with children and adolescents with varying degrees of hearing loss. Each staff possesses a wealth of knowledge in communicative and educational choices available for deaf and hard of hearing children. All Children Specialists are fluent in ASL and English.

CHILDREN SPECIALISTS

Boston/North Region

Melissa Dowler
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
617-694-9781 Cell
617-740-1659 Voice
617-861-8847 VP
617-740-1830 Fax
melissa.dowler@mass.gov

South Region

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Boston, MA 02111
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617-740-1652 Voice
617-409-7496 VP
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melissa.adams@mass.gov

Central Region

Terri Pancare, MA
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Westborough, MA 01581
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Berkshire/Western Region

Emily Graves-Harrison
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SERVICES

- **Parent Education** relative to the effects of hearing loss at birth, during childhood and in the teenage years
- **Identification of Intervention Strategies** for parents and others, including the appropriate usage of hearing aids, assistive listening devices and system, alerting and signaling devices, medical procedures, early intervention, communication and language development and more.
- **Objective Information** regarding choices for early language development
- **Information and Referral** to specialized services such as mental health, psycho-educational evaluation and testing, speech and language pathologist and audiologists
- **Technical Assistance** to Early Intervention and educational programs regarding the communication needs and cultural perspectives of Deaf and hard of hearing children
- **Advocacy and Support** to families and agencies in the development and utilization of service plans
- **Connecting Children and Families** to recreational and social activities as well as other families and Deaf adult role models
- **General Case Management** services as needed

All services are free and confidential

Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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