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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's 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's Specialists are bilingual in English and American Sign Language (ASL).

It is the goal of the Children's Specialists at MCDHH to empower families and children to access equitable education options, services, and resources in their communities.

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 (or "behavioral" health or both?), 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#