

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention provides services for children from birth to age three who have, or are at risk for, developmental delays. Early Intervention is a year-round, community-based, integrated, developmental service sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Early Intervention programs provide comprehensive, integrated services, utilizing a family-centered approach to facilitate the developmental progress of eligible children.

Registration

Enrollment can be initiated by parents or providers and can occur throughout the year. Inquires should be made to Linda Roth at 978-287-7820. 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.

The program is available at no cost to families of children who qualify for Early Intervention services. Siblings and children from the community who are under age 3 may enroll on a tuition basis, as space permits.

Funding

The Hearing Loss Program receives financial support from The Decibels Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which is dedicated to sponsoring this program and assuring that support for this population continues as children transition into school.

Early Intervention services are funded through private and public health insurance plans and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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Licensed, Certified or Approved by:
MA Department of Public Health



An affiliated
chapter of  **The Arc.**

Minute Man Arc: *improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities by increasing independence, personal choice, and self-advocacy.*

Minute Man Arc

Changing Lives, Changing Communities



Early Intervention Program For Children With Hearing Loss

Providing comprehensive services and support for families with children (ages birth to three years) with hearing loss

MINUTE MAN
Arc

Program Description

The Minute Man Arc Early Intervention Program for Children with Hearing Loss provides family-centered services, including information and support for parents and specialized instruction for children. The program includes:

- A listening and spoken language approach, with the support of sign language;
- A nurturing playgroup that facilitates and enhances all aspects of the child's development;
- A defined, sequential approach to auditory skill development and language development;
- Individual speech, language and auditory services by professionals who are knowledgeable about the impact of hearing loss on language, learning, and social interaction;
- Occupational and physical therapy services, as appropriate to a child's individual needs;
- An acoustically adapted and controlled environment to ensure the best possible access to speech and language;
- Parent groups which provide opportunities for parents to share experiences, gather information and learn sign language.
- A social worker who is available with expertise in support for parents of children with hearing loss.

Program Staff

Staff members are knowledgeable about the unique needs of children with hearing loss, and may include Developmental Specialists, Speech/Language Pathologists, Physical and Occupational Therapists, Social Worker and Teachers of the Deaf. All staff members are licensed by the Commonwealth in their profession.

Parent/Baby Playgroup

This is a comfortable and supportive environment in which to navigate the challenges of raising an infant or toddler with hearing loss. It provides education for parents regarding hearing loss and an opportunity to learn from each other as they move forward. It is led by a Teacher of the Deaf and a Developmental Specialist. Parents stay in the group with their child. This group is recommended for children from birth to approximately 18-21 months.

Toddler Playgroup

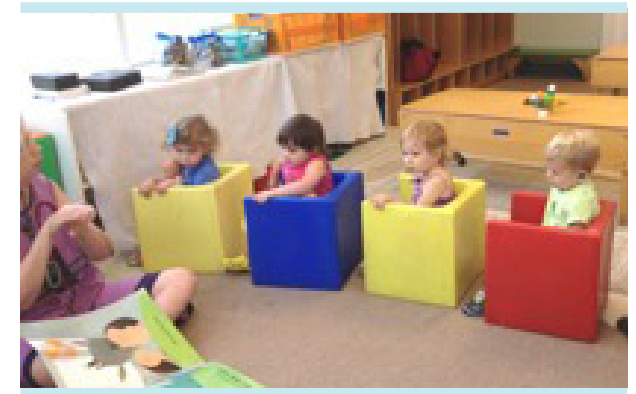
The playgroup is a curriculum – based, dynamic, and language-rich environment with a high staff-to-student ratio. The sessions include child-centered play as well as directed activities intended to facilitate all areas of development, including auditory, speech and language skills. Appropriate accommodations and classroom modifications assure the best access to speech for children with hearing loss. This includes the use of a Sound Field system for whole group circle, art activity, and snack time.

Toddler Playgroup Schedule

- Welcome children to classroom
- Monitor and troubleshoot personal amplification devices
- Child centered free play
- Snack
- Individual speech/language/auditory therapy sessions
- Circle time
- Goodbye song and parents return

Individual Therapy

Speech/language/auditory therapy is provided for each child with a hearing loss either once or twice a week, based on the child's needs. Parents are encouraged to participate in these therapy sessions.



Parent Group

The parent group meets each Wednesday during playgroup to discuss the unique issues involved in raising a child with a hearing loss. The facilitator is a professional who has significant expertise working with parents of children with hearing loss. Of primary importance is the parent to parent sharing of experiences unique to raising a child with hearing loss. Topics for discussion are based on the group's interests. Guest speakers are invited to present information on topics chosen by the group.

Instruction in sign language is offered during the Friday parent group. Parents and other caregivers who are involved in the lives of children in the program are welcome to attend. The sign class is geared towards parents of children birth to three years.

Program Schedule

Parent/Baby Group: 9:00AM - 10:15AM, W

Toddler Groups: 11:00AM - 12:30PM, W
11:00AM - 12:30PM, F

Location: 1269 Main Street, Concord, MA

Fees: There is no fee for families to participate in Early Intervention. Costs are covered by insurance companies, MassHealth, or the Department of Public Health.

Service Availability: The program is available at no cost to families of children who qualify for Early Intervention services. Children form the community who are under age 3 may enroll on a tuition basis, as space permits.