

THE FAMILY GUIDANCE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM



The Family Guidance Early Intervention Program at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf is a family-centered program for families who have deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers.

FAMILY FIRST

This program is designed to recognize the psycho-social impact that an early diagnosis of hearing loss will have on a family. It will support families on their emotional journey while they are dealing with this diagnosis, as well as the initiation and maintenance of early intervention services.



CONNECTING THROUGH COMMUNICATION

This program is designed to promote the all-important acquisition of language. It encourages parents to develop flexibility in their consideration of what type of intervention or approach would be best for their family, for their baby, and for their circumstances. The Family Guidance Program is based upon research which supports the stimulation of all sensory pathways to provide babies with a rich access to language. Finally, it is supportive of a family's quest for "answers", and their exploration of options which promote language acquisition.

ASSESSMENT AND TRANSITION

Normative developmental milestones are used to design critical language goals and home-based activities. Supporting these milestones is a sound theoretical framework for how children learn language and how to measure it.

At age three, our program plays an important role in providing support and information for families as they transition from Family Guidance to school.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide families with guidance and information which will support them in making decisions and advocating for their child. The program is tailored to each family's unique situation. It is designed to enhance the competence of the parent and strives to reflect the culture, values, and social characteristics of the community of which the family is a part.

For more information:

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