

Sign Language Services for Rhode Island Families



REGIONAL CENTER
EAST

What are the benefits of learning to sign with my child at an early age?

Language acquisition at a very early age is critical for every child who is deaf or hard of hearing. It leads to the development of literacy skills needed throughout the child's life.

Caretakers should introduce deaf and hard hearing children to language as early as possible. The earlier any child is exposed to and begins to acquire language, the better that child's communication skills will become.

What is the Sign Language Program?

The Gallaudet University Regional Center can provide weekly Sign Language instruction for eligible families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing 0-3 years of age. To be eligible, families must be working with an Early Intervention Provider who makes the referral.



The goal of this program is to introduce family members to Sign Language, enabling them to communicate with their child at the earliest age possible. Extended family members and caregivers are encouraged to participate.

All of our tutors are Deaf or hard of hearing, have had a criminal background check, are specially trained in the provision of Sign Language instruction and follow a specially devised curriculum that is perfect for families.

The curriculum will address not only the learning of sign vocabulary, but the application of the signs to everyday family life. As part of the classes, our tutors will also share their knowledge about Deaf culture and will teach the family ways of making their family communications more visual and accessible for their child.



For more
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