

The Learning Center for Deaf Children

One Child at a Time...

**Dual Language Services for Students Utilizing  
Cochlear Implant Technology**

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# The Learning Center for Deaf Children

## **Three distinct school facilities:**

- Main campus in Framingham, Massachusetts (pre-school through high school)**
- A satellite campus is located in Randolph, MA (pre-school through elementary)**
- Walden School (therapeutic, 365 day residential program)**

**Established in 1970, TLC was the first school in Massachusetts to provide formal education in a signing environment.**

**One of the first schools in the country to offer comprehensive educational programming to Deaf students in a bilingual-bicultural setting**

**Current enrollment: 190 students**

**Active Parent/Infant programs at both campuses**

**TLC has enrolled students with cochlear implants since 1994.**



**Children in our Parent-Infant Program**



**Children whose first language is ASL and who received their implants at an older age.**

**CI users who have transferred into our school from Oral or Mainstream programs**



# Getting Ready



- " Invited outside professionals to come and address staff about the technology of cochlear implants**
- " Presented in-house staff forums and training for Deaf and Hearing staff members**
- " Utilized in-house Deaf Advisory Council to help facilitate the discussion and impact on our Deaf colleagues/staff**
- " SLPs and teachers attended trainings. Encouraged staff visits to other programs and schools**
- " Joined an on-going regional group of New England professionals who meet 3x/year to brainstorm and address issues specific to using sign with CI users**
- " Developed a school-wide Cochlear Implant Task Force (Deaf and hearing staff) which meets monthly to design and improve services to families and children**

## A Collaborative Model

The continuum of response by children to their cochlear implant encompasses a wide spectrum.

A team approach ensures that each student's services are well tailored to that child's unique response.





## Services

Deaf and Hearing Teaching Teams

Early and routine screening for Occupational Therapy and Sensory Integration services

SLP services in 1:1 and small group

Technology checks upon arrival at school

Daily vocal warm-up through music and rhyme in the classroom

Sound field and FM Classroom Technology

In-house Audiology Services

Integration into regular classroom with Deaf/Hard of Hearing students

Opportunities to see and hear language all through the day with signing and speaking peers

Fam ily support and education

O pportunities for 1:1 A SL developm ent w ith D eaf staff

A SL classes for parents at no charge

C ounseling/play therapy for all students who utilize C I technology

D irect teaching of social skills to students in m otivational groups

R eading specialist to develop phonem ic aw areness and to provide phonics support

P laygroup opportunities for toddlers and young preschoolers w ith typical speaking peers in our Staff D ay C are C enter

T ransition services to help students prepare for next school placem ent



# Defining Success...one child at a time



- The definition of success varies from child to child. Each student we have has a different set of needs and uses the CI technology differently.
- Some will remain in our school. Others are preparing to mainstream.

## **Common goals:**

- Meta-linguistic flexibility
- English as well as ASL comprehension
- Effective speech skills
- Healthy developing identities
- Families that work closely with us to tailor educational services to each child's learning style.
- Relaxed, successful students

We owe it to these children not to let the doors be closed before they're even old enough to know how many rooms there are, or how many other doors there are beyond the one or two that they can see.



-Jonathan Kozol

Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

# Dual Language Preschool

New Directions- September  
2002





The Learning  
Center for Deaf  
Children is eagerly  
looking forward to  
being part of the  
dialog on this

**"HOT"** topic

this afternoon and  
tomorrow .

Enjoy your  
lunch.

**Special thanks to Jennifer Miller for photographing our  
students for this presentation**