

Rhode Island Early Intervention  
Community Partners  
Working with Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Early Intervention (EI) teams work closely with these community partners to provide services to children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Each of these community programs and their staff bring expertise on communication opportunities with a focus on language acquisition. All programs support parents in understanding their child’s hearing loss and build confidence as their child’s primary teacher.

<div> <div> <b>RI School for the Deaf Parent/Infant/Toddler Program (PIP)</b> </div> <div> <p>The PIP program focuses on four key areas of development in a group setting:</p> <p><b>Language:</b> Developing each child and family’s ability to use and understand ASL and their native language separately.</p> <p><b>Interaction:</b> Fostering the bond between parent and child, and supporting parents as they gain confidence in their role.</p> <p><b>Emotional Growth:</b> Encouraging the development of each child’s self-esteem and sense of identity in both Deaf and hearing cultures.</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Helping each child reach developmental milestones, while teaching parents about natural child development.</p> <p>Victoria Pfanstiehl RI School for the Deaf PIP Program Coordinator Via fax (401) 243-1024 or email <a href="mailto:vpfanstiehl@rideaf.net">vpfanstiehl@rideaf.net</a> Phone (401) 401-952-5656</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <b>RI Sign Language Initiatives (RISLI)</b> </div> <div> <p>The Rhode Island Sign Language Initiatives is a program of the Gallaudet University Regional Center East. RISLI provides in-home sign language instruction, from Deaf and hard of hearing tutors, for parents and guardians of Deaf or hard of hearing children. Families receive weekly classes with their identified tutor until their child turns 3 or is no longer enrolled in early intervention. The first visit is with a sign language interpreter to ensure all information, including goals and expectations, can be easily communicated. The remaining visits are conducted solely by the tutor. Tutors follow a family-oriented sign language curriculum that can be tailored to the needs of each family.</p> <p>For more information, contact Todd Higgins or Aimee Stevens, Gallaudet University Regional Center East at <a href="mailto:fslp@necc.mass.edu">fslp@necc.mass.edu</a> or (978) 556-3701(voice), (978) 241-7417(VP)</p> </div> </div>
<div> <div> <b>Perspectives Corporation</b> </div> <div> <p>Perspectives Corporation offers specialty consultation to EI providers working with infants and toddlers with an identified hearing loss. Perspectives staff have years of experience working with families in the home and other natural environments addressing the social, emotional, and communication needs of their child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home-visits with our team of professionals using a variety of language modalities, and consultation regarding approaches to communication with consideration of the ongoing needs of the child</li> <li>• Consultation with a licensed clinician specialized in supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing</li> <li>• Functional ASL instruction to the child and family in the home with the opportunity for formalized ASL classes outside the home</li> <li>• Connecting families to resources, both during and after EI</li> </ul> <p>For more information, contact Danielle Loughlin, LICSW Director of Intakes and Admissions <a href="mailto:dloughlin@perspectivescorporation.com">dloughlin@perspectivescorporation.com</a></p> <p>Rachel Rotella, LICSW Senior Clinical Supervisor <a href="mailto:rrotella@perspectivescorporation.com">rrotella@perspectivescorporation.com</a> Phone (401) 378-6697 Fax (401) 294-7773</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <b>RI Auditory Oral Program</b> </div> <div> <p>The RI Auditory Oral program offers specialized support and services for families exploring the development of spoken language from birth to age 3.</p> <p>Home-based family support and education is provided by Teachers of the Deaf or Auditory Oral Speech Language Pathologists and focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early communication development</li> <li>• Family education regarding technology and audiological care</li> <li>• Auditory development</li> <li>• Spoken language development</li> </ul> <p>For more information contact Sarah Rosendale Paine Elementary School <a href="mailto:sarah.rosendale@paineschool.org">sarah.rosendale@paineschool.org</a> Fax 401-647-3750 Direct: 401-952-8025 School: 401-647-5100</p> </div> </div>

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<p><b>I Hear It</b></p> <p>Independent contractor, Donna Rizzo, offers specialized support and services for families exploring the development of spoken language from birth to age 3.</p> <p>She provides home-based family support and education focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early communication development</li><li>• Family education regarding technology and audiological care</li><li>• Auditory development</li><li>• Spoken language development</li></ul> <p>Donna Rizzo, MS CCC/SLP 38 High Service Avenue North Providence, RI 02911 <a href="mailto:ihearit.rizzo@gmail.com">ihearit.rizzo@gmail.com</a> (401) 447-9246</p>	
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