

Building a Case: Why We Need Your Help to Serve Children Who Are Deaf

DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 3 in 1,000 newborns are diagnosed annually with permanent hearing loss

Most newborns are screened for hearing loss in the hospital and after follow-up testing, up to three per 1,000 are diagnosed with permanent hearing loss. Nationwide, 15,000 newborns are diagnosed with hearing loss per year. Recent research indicates that hearing loss can develop after the newborn period, and it is estimated that an additional three in 1,000 children who passed newborn hearing screenings will be diagnosed with a hearing loss by age six.

Over 90% of children with hearing loss are born to parents with typical hearing

For most parents, holding their newborn baby is the first experience they've had interacting with a person who is deaf.

Children develop language in the first five years

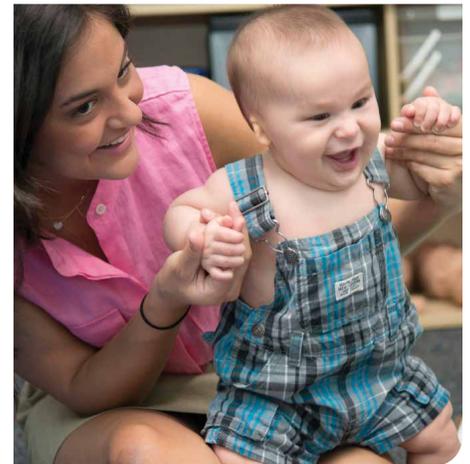
Many parents are unaware that a child who is deaf has the potential to learn to listen and talk. Nor do they realize that the first few months and years of life are critical periods of auditory and linguistic brain development. After the first five years—without access to Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) therapy and education—it might be too late for a deaf child to learn to listen and talk.

Clarke Teaches Children Who Are Deaf to Listen and Talk

With timely access to sound provided by cochlear implants and hearing aids, children who are deaf or hard of hearing can learn to listen and talk. After just a few years of intensive therapy and education provided by Clarke, the vast majority of these children transition to and thrive in neighborhood schools alongside their peers with typical hearing.

Clarke's Programs and Services

Infants as young as a few weeks old begin receiving services at Clarke. As soon as possible after a hearing loss is identified, Clarke's Early Intervention professionals meet with the child's parents to create a plan of service designed to meet the particular needs of that child and family. The family receives a range of services from Clarke, including:



- Learning how to enrich their child's life and developmental skills with meaningful sound, language and play.
- Learning specific techniques to promote their child's Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) skills.
- Receiving technical assistance and audiological services in support of their child's cochlear implants or hearing aids.
- Interaction with professionals and other families of children with hearing loss to overcome feelings of grief, helplessness and isolation that parents of children with hearing loss typically experience.

A Typical Plan of Service

- The **infant** is evaluated and fit with hearing aids.
- The infant typically receives individual speech therapy two times a week and participates in the Parent-Infant Group once a week.
- Services are increased when the child approaches **age two** and joins the Parent-Toddler Group that meets twice a week; the child continues to receive individual speech therapy.
- At **age three**, the child participates in the full-day Preschool Program five days a week and receives individual speech therapy five days a week.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children of low-income families are at greatest risk

Research shows that children born into poverty are more vulnerable to developmental delays, especially in speech and language. Evidence also shows that children from lower income families often fall behind more affluent children with respect to vocabulary growth by age three.

Children with hearing loss from low-income families represent a disproportionately large percentage of families not accessing Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) therapy and education. Yet, these are the children and families most in need of Clarke's programs and services, and the group for whom the services will have the greatest impact.

By strengthening the capacity of these families to meet the developmental needs of their child, the secondary effects of hearing loss and low socioeconomic status are greatly minimized.

- At **age four**, the child continues to receive individual speech therapy five days a week and may transition into the Integrated Preschool Classroom that includes children with typical hearing—this classroom provides a bridge to the mainstream for children with hearing loss.
- By **age five**, the child is typically ready to transition to their neighborhood school.

With intensive services provided by Clarke's certified teachers of the deaf, speech-language pathologists, on-site audiologist and service coordinator, children with hearing loss begin to develop the listening, spoken language, early literacy, cognitive, social and emotional skills needed for success. Children in need of occupational or physical therapy may receive these services at Clarke as well. This continuum of care provided by Clarke's highly skilled professionals—all of whom have Master's degrees in their fields—enables children who are deaf or hard of hearing to learn to listen and talk.

Clarke New York

At the school on East End Avenue, Clarke provides services to over 100 children who are deaf or hard of hearing ranging in age from birth to age five. All of these children have permanent hearing loss and use cochlear implants or hearing aids to access sound.

The children enrolled at Clarke New York come from four of the five boroughs of New York City. Many of these families are multi-ethnic and speak a language other than English in the home, including: Indonesian, Mandarin, Polish, Spanish, Thai, Urdu and Wolof. Nearly half of the families that receive services from Clarke New York are low-income.



Clarke is Making a Difference for Children

- During the 2016 academic year, more than 80% of Clarke students met or exceeded age appropriate standard scores in expressive vocabulary, receptive vocabulary and total language.
- The majority of Clarke students who have taken the NYC Gifted & Talented Program admissions test have been identified as gifted or talented.
- Most of the children who receive Early Intervention services at Clarke New York and then attend the Preschool Program transition to neighborhood or private schools where they progress alongside their peers with typical hearing.

DID YOU KNOW?

For Clarke alumni, success is long lasting: 98% graduate from high school and 75% attend college

Clarke services are so critical because having a limited ability to read inhibits long term academic success and career achievement. Unless children with hearing loss are identified early and receive consistent, quality Early Intervention services, they are likely to develop poor literacy skills.

There is a critical window for brain development before age three. Children diagnosed with hearing loss who begin receiving appropriate Early Intervention services before six months of age show significantly better speech development and reading comprehension skills than children diagnosed after six months.

Clarke equips children who are deaf or hard of hearing with the Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) and literacy skills needed to succeed in school and in life. Clarke graduates have gone on to careers in various fields, including architecture, audiology, engineering, journalism, non-profit management and teaching.

In 1999, Clarke New York opened its doors knowing that the need for its state-of-the art, high-quality and nurturing programming was great and growing, and that the time was right to make a commitment and investment in the City. Today, that commitment and investment have yielded huge dividends for the more than 1,000 families that have been served by Clarke New York. The time is right to reach out to those who can make a difference to ensure that Clarke's programs will thrive and grow for generations of New Yorkers to come.



Case for Support

At Clarke there is an annual shortfall of nearly \$5,000 per child in the public funding received. The current public systems and funding streams do not support the depth and breadth of services required by children who are deaf or hard of hearing to enable them to learn to listen, talk and ultimately to succeed in regular public education. The levels of reimbursement for services provided by Clarke are set by the state of New York and currently cover fewer than 64% of the costs to provide services.

Our Goal

We seek to:

- Raise \$500,000 per year (\$5,000 per child for 100 children) to close the funding gap for Clarke New York
- Create an endowment of \$5 million to close the funding gap in perpetuity

Donors can support programs that benefit both the children served by Clarke New York and the greater Clarke organization.

Founded in 1867 in Northampton, MA, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech has expanded to meet the demand for services, especially to families of low-income in urban areas. Clarke now has four additional campuses: Boston, MA (1995), Jacksonville, FL (1996), New York, NY (1999) and Philadelphia, PA (2010). Clarke also provides outreach services in Delaware, New Jersey and Rhode Island, and training and support to families and service providers around the US and worldwide.

Clarke was the first school in the United States to teach children who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen and talk. For 150 years, Clarke has been enabling children who are deaf or hard of hearing to thrive in school and in their communities!