



# Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech



A Center of Excellence for children who are deaf and hard of hearing, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

**At Clarke, we help children who are deaf and hard of hearing learn to listen and talk.** Children served by Clarke use advanced technologies, including cochlear implants and hearing aids, to maximize their access to sound. We work with children and their families from infancy through their teen years. Our teachers of the deaf, audiologists, and speech pathologists have the background, training, and experience to prepare children academically and socially for a world of limitless possibilities. Clarke children listen and learn in the classroom, run and laugh with their friends on the playground, and have lives filled with music, sports, family, and community. Many children who come to Clarke are ready to attend their neighborhood mainstream schools by kindergarten.

## Professional Development



**Clarke is dedicated to educating and nurturing the very best professionals in the field.** More than 1400 teachers of the deaf have graduated from the Smith College/Clarke Schools Master's Program, and are now teaching in 34 countries. Clarke's annual *Mainstreaming Students with Hearing Loss Conference*—the only gathering of its kind—attracts educators, scholars and families from around the nation. Our free archived Webinar Series provides professionals and families with access to Clarke's expertise and resources from wherever they are around the world, 24/7. Log on at [clarkeschools.org](http://clarkeschools.org).



**For more information, contact our Central Office at 413.584.3450**  
**Boston • Jacksonville • New York • Northampton • Pennsylvania**  
[clarkeschools.org](http://clarkeschools.org)





## Infant-Toddler Programs

### Introducing a World of Sound

Each year in the United States, 3 in every 1000 babies are born with permanent hearing loss. What happens next, and *when* it happens, makes all the difference.

Infants don't talk, but they *do* listen and learn. That's why so many parents bring their newly diagnosed babies directly to Clarke. Our Early Intervention professionals provide expertise, guidance, and support for families, most of whom have no prior experience with hearing loss. Parents learn to create sound stimulation for their babies, gaining

confidence and knowledge along the way. After receiving amplification (cochlear implants or hearing aids), babies learn to process sound and eventually develop language. Our programs include on-site and online therapy sessions, play groups, and parent and family coaching sessions.

*"I couldn't believe our first play group at Clarke. Babies were babbling, toddlers were laughing, and parents were smiling. For the first time, I felt that our son was going to be fine."* – Clarke Parent



## Preschool Programs Blossoming in the Classroom and Beyond

Chloe (pictured above) came to Clarke at 18 months—silent, anxious and clingy. She immediately started speech therapy, was re-tested by a Clarke audiologist, and diagnosed as profoundly deaf. After receiving cochlear implants and attending Clarke’s preschool for two years, Chloe is now a social butterfly, thriving in her neighborhood school.

Clarke Preschool programs are taught by master’s level teachers of the deaf in state-of-the-art classrooms designed for children with hearing loss. Activities focus on

listening, speech, and pre-literacy skills and include daily individual speech therapy. Clarke’s goal is to prepare children to enter mainstream classrooms on par with their hearing peers, by kindergarten—just like Chloe did.

Now, at age 4, Chloe loves to talk. “You know what? When I was a little kid, I couldn’t hear at all without my implants. And I’m getting new ones in a different color! Purple with pink spots!” Watch and listen at [clarkeschools.org/Chloe](http://clarkeschools.org/Chloe).



## Mainstream Services Providing Support for Students and Teachers

Decades ago, 80% of children who were deaf attended special schools. Today, most will attend neighborhood schools alongside hearing peers.

To help these students succeed, Clarke educators travel daily to public and private schools along the East Coast. They assist classroom teachers, many of whom have never taught students with hearing loss before, and provide trainings on FM systems and other technologies that amplify sound. They also work intensively with students

on both academic and social issues, ensuring that each child has the best chance to reach his or her full potential.

Clarke's renowned comprehensive evaluations are specifically designed to help determine the best educational route for children with hearing loss. Recognizing the value of making connections *outside* the classroom, Clarke's summer and social programs bring together children with hearing loss, helping to forge lifelong friendships. "For the first time, I was with kids just like me. It was amazing!"

# Clarke's K-8 Program

## Instilling Confidence, Meeting Challenges



**Clarke Schools**  
for Hearing and Speech

Established in 1867 as  
Clarke School for the Deaf

45 Round Hill Road  
Northampton, MA 01060-2199



Co-located in a Northampton elementary school, the K-8 Program is a national model of innovation and inclusion. Through small group instruction, students with hearing loss are taught by Clarke faculty in acoustically treated classrooms, and gradually experience the environment of a mainstream school. "It is," according to many parents, "the best of both worlds."

[clarkeschools.org](http://clarkeschools.org)