

A Collaborative Effort

The Rhode Island Auditory-Oral Program is operated by the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative (NRIC) in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Education Office for Diverse Learners, Cranston School Department, participating school districts, and Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



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Rhode Island Auditory-Oral Program

a statewide program of
Northern Rhode Island Collaborative

An educational option
for children who are
deaf or hard of hearing



Rhode Island Auditory-Oral Program

The Rhode Island Auditory-Oral Program offers an educational option for eligible children who are deaf or hard of hearing to learn to listen and speak as their primary way of communicating and learning.

This statewide program is available to children with previous gaps in auditory access, unique challenges in learning to use cochlear implant technology or amplification, and delayed development of spoken communication. The program's **MISSION** is to prepare children to successfully join their



hearing peers in general early childhood or elementary classroom settings in their home district, offering a period

of intensive spoken language, auditory skill development, and communication intervention.

The Rhode Island Auditory-Oral Program was created in response to the changing needs of children and families. This educational option was developed by an extended team of experts in the field of oral deaf education. The Rhode Island Auditory-Oral Program opened in April 2005.

Parents are Partners

Parents are a central part of the teaching team. Parent participation in individual intervention sessions at school is an important component of the program. The commitment of parents and program staff to working as a team ensures that children have full opportunity to integrate listening skills and spoken communication into their daily life at school and at home.



Community Outreach

The Rhode Island Auditory-Oral program provides support to students in their home districts through training, consultation, and collaboration with school staff and direct services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Parent-Toddler Groups

The Rhode Island Auditory-Oral program is working with Early Intervention to provide auditory-oral parent-toddler groups for families who have chosen oral language as a communication modality or families in the process of exploring their options.

Specialized Instruction

The Rhode Island Auditory-Oral Program reflects a language-centered curriculum within a whole-child approach consistent with both Rhode Island Early

Learning Standards and Rhode Island Grade Level Expectations. The following program features adhere to best practices in auditory-oral education for children with hearing loss:

- Acoustically engineered listening environments with synchronized sound field and personal FM technology, structural accommodations, and ongoing consultation with an educational audiologist.
- Teachers of the Deaf specially trained in auditory-oral intervention for children who are auditory learners using cochlear implants and hearing aids.
- For school-aged children, specially designed and supervised inclusion opportunities in regular education classrooms and in the greater school community.
- For preschoolers, daily interaction with hearing peers through a specially designed integrated preschool classroom.
- Daily individual and small group auditory-oral intervention with a Teacher of the Deaf or Speech/Language Pathologist with auditory-oral expertise, and engagement of parents in interventions.
- Routine and ongoing staff consultation with audiologists and specialists based in hospitals and cochlear implant centers as part of the daily troubleshooting and management of hearing technology and implant MAPPings.

