



THE HEARING AND SPEECH AGENCY

Improving Lives Through Communication

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Since 1926, the legacy of The Hearing and Speech Agency (HASA) has been one of hard work, innovative solutions and an unwavering commitment to meeting the speech, language and hearing needs of children and adults throughout Maryland. A private, non-profit organization located in Baltimore City, HASA leads the way as a direct service provider, information resource center, and advocate for people of all ages. HASA is dedicated to helping children and adults fulfill their potential and explore every opportunity to enjoy a happy and rewarding future.

Centralized Interpreter Referral Services

Interpreter situations occur where and when clear, accurate communication needs to take place between a deaf or hard-of-hearing person and a hearing person. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act requires most employers, schools, government entities, and places of public accommodation to provide qualified interpreters or auxiliary aids to ensure effective communication. HASA provides around-the-clock interpreter services for a number of situations, including education, counseling, employment, medical care, mass media, legal/court rooms, religious settings, law enforcement, and recreation among many others. Direct interpreter referral services offered by HASA, include:

- Sign language and oral interpreters
- American sign language classes
- Deaf awareness workshops
- ViSion (Video Interpreting Service)

Gateway School

The Gateway School is a program tailored to the unique needs of HASA's students, ages 3-12, whose disabilities are often complex and multifaceted, and may be medically complicated. HASA provides small, contained classrooms that offer an intensive and integrated program of special education and related services. Gateway promotes open communication with parents and outside professionals through its open-door observation policy, an active parent-teacher organization, ongoing parent support groups, and continuing education workshops and lectures. Gateway, an 11-month, full day educational and therapeutic program, is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education and meets the criteria for non-public tuition assistance. HASA also accepts private pay students. Gateway is designated for children with disabilities related to:

- Speech/language impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Autistic spectrum disorders
- Other health impairment

Clinical Services

HASA's Clinical Services program provides speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and audiology to infants, toddlers, school-age children and adults who need on-site, home or community-based services. HASA offers a sliding fee scale for clients who qualify. The agency also participates in *Hear Now*, a national program that provides hearing aids to individuals at or near the poverty level.

Speech-Language Pathology

HASA provides screenings, evaluations and therapy for speech-language disorders, including: speech/articulation, oral motor, language, auditory-processing, phonological awareness, stuttering, voice, language learning disabilities, language-based reading difficulties, and oral-education therapy related to cochlear implants/hearing loss.

Audiology

HASA provides the following audiology services for infants, children and adults:

- Comprehensive hearing testing, including middle ear testing
- Hearing aid evaluation and selection (standard analog devices to the latest digital technology)
- Fitting of custom earmolds, hearing protectors and swim plugs
- Simple hearing aid repairs
- Hearing aid batteries and accessories
- Cerumen (earwax) removal prior to testing

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