

ADVOCACY, EMPOWERMENT, AND AWARENESS

Promoting awareness about deaf people's needs, rights, capabilities, language and culture is an essential matter for the Deaf. The LCD therefore uses any formats and opportunities to promote awareness.

The LCD relentlessly addresses the Government, and other international organizations, when needed, to promote the rights of the Deaf, based on the UN Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities, the Law 220/2000 regarding the rights of the disabled, and the deaf persons' expressed needs; being the responsibility of the Government. Also, empowering the Deaf for self-advocacy, is essential.



SIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

Sign Language Courses were initially started for parents of deaf children and other persons interested in learning the language of the deaf community. The courses, which last for 3 months, are provided in two levels, the first being a beginner level and the second an intermediate level. By the end of these two courses, the participants will be able to converse with Deaf persons.

OTHER SERVICES

Many other services are also provided according to the needs and the LCD's capacity, such as consultation, networking, promoting early detection of hearing loss, providing second hand hearing aids, therapy groups for older children (for identity and complex linguistic objectives), activities for deaf adults (classes and social gatherings), etc.

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The purpose of the LCD is to broaden the scope of possibilities for the Deaf, through focus on areas that have rarely or never been tackled; mainly through education in its broadest meaning, as well as advocacy, empowerment, and awareness.

The main services that the LCD offers are:

- Early Intervention Program
- High School Education for the Deaf
- Advocacy, Empowerment, and Awareness
- Sign Language Courses
- Other Services



THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Early Intervention Program, as detailed below, is designed to provide the parents of deaf babies and young children, with support, knowledge, and skill building, to enable them best help their child:

- Guidance, referral, and provision of information
- Rehabilitation sessions conducted by a speech and language therapist (approach according to need/individual choice)
- Hearing tests, which are an integral part of the early intervention program to achieve optimal amplification
- Support groups for parents to share feelings, worries, information and experience
- Use of the John Tracy Clinic lessons for parents, which include easy practical and fun lessons as a guide to what can be done by the family with the child at home.
- Seminars and/or workshops that enhance the family's knowledge and skills.
- A regular diagnostic Integrated Nursery and Preschool (KG1 & 2) for deaf and hearing children, using the Montessori Approach in Education.
- A Sign Language course for the parents who choose to adopt this mode of communication, together with other persons interested to learn Sign Language.



HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR THE DEAF

This program commenced in October 2003, and gathered Brevet students from different schools for the Deaf, as well as deaf students from regular schools, for the purpose of achieving Baccalaureate level - Grade 10 to 12 - required for University entrance, and thereby giving them equal chances as their hearing peers in achieving University entrance.

