

⋮LIGHTHOUSE⋮

FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

LightHouse Little Learners Program Information for Families

Welcome to the LightHouse Little Learners Early Intervention Program!

Since 1902, the mission of LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired-San Francisco has been to promote the independence, equality and self-reliance of individuals who are blind or have low vision.

Providing services in northern and central California, the goal for our LightHouse Little Learners Program is to help your child explore the world with curiosity and independence to their highest potential. LightHouse Little Learners aims to help you and your child (birth to age three) who is blind, deafblind, has low vision or neurological visual impairment, or whose developmental delays include blindness or low vision.

Our LightHouse Little Learners Program is rooted in the philosophy of infant and family mental health, which supports your child's ability to express their feelings, form close relationships and learn with the encouragement of your whole family and community. Each of these key areas is especially important for young children who are blind or have low vision.

LightHouse Little Learners Specialists believe that parents are the first and best teachers for their children. Our Specialists will listen and respond to your priorities and concerns in order to involve the whole family in your child's journey. They will provide the latest information about blindness and low vision, will share ways to include your infant or toddler in daily routines, and will work with you to create fun ways to communicate and play together to encourage your child's growth and development.

All photos were taken on location at Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa during a past annual Family Camp session.



Smiling broadly, a woman stands next to a man who is seated and holding a young child who is wearing glasses and laughing.



While standing under a leafy tree, Dad is looking down at his young son who is leaning back and laughing.



Three children with happy expressions sit on a bench next to their grandmother who is smiling.

Why LightHouse Little Learners Program Is Right for You and Your Child

You and your family will talk with the LightHouse Little Learners Specialist to choose services that best fit your needs and those of your child.

Services provided by the Specialist include:

- Assessing your child's development through family interviews and observing your child during daily routines at home and in the community
- Developing a plan together to address your needs and those of your child (birth to age three), which will become part of an Individualized Family Service Plan or IFSP
- Encouraging shared communication with your child by interpreting their cues, engaging in early literacy activities, pre-Braille awareness and play with multi-sensory toys
- Encouraging or helping your child to use all available senses through play, fun activities and adapted, interactive technologies
- Using everyday objects at home to explore how things work while encouraging independence at your child's own developmental level and pace
- Building your child's spatial and body awareness in order to safely explore home and the community through early Orientation and Mobility techniques
- Consulting with community child care or developmental programs to create an environment of fun, safety, access and inclusion for your child
- Preparing for and accompanying you and your child to important medical appointments
- Coordinating events/meetings for families to learn from teens and adults who are blind or have low vision about the aspects of their early family life that contributed to their community engagement and success
- Providing families with opportunities to share stories, resources and experiences with other families, mentors and specialists in individual or group gatherings, while building community and long-lasting friendships at LightHouse facilities, including beautiful Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa

How to Inquire about LightHouse Little Learners Program Services

Parents, guardians, or other family members are welcome to inquire about services from LightHouse Little Learners. If your child is between the ages of birth and three years, has been diagnosed as having low vision or blindness, and resides in northern or central California, we would love to hear from you.

To learn more about LightHouse Little Learners Program services:

VISIT: www.lighthouse-sf.org/lighthouse-little-learners

EMAIL: littlelearners@lighthouse-sf.org

CALL: (415) 694-7657 Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM PST