

**Communication Sciences and Disorders:  
Early Intervention Education Data Report  
— for New England**

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# Agenda

- Introduction/Background Information
- Methods
- Results
- Limitations
- Future Research
- Questions/Discussion

What is birth to  
three?

# Birth to three

1. To strengthen the capacity of families to meet the developmental and health-related needs of their infants and toddlers who have delays or disabilities (CT birth to three system).
  - a. Natural Learning Environment Practices
  - b. Coaching as a style of interaction with families and team members
  - c. Primary service provider approach to teaming



help me



# Purpose

Identify gaps in the education provided to M.A. SLP students in New England regarding birth to three services.

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# Research Question/ Hypothesis

- What education is provided to M.A. SLP students in New England about early intervention practices?
- M.A. SLP students in New England do not receive formal education about birth to —three practices

# Research Methods

- Used ASHA EdFind to identify all of the M.A. Speech Language Pathology programs in New England
- Reviewed each schools M.A. SLP Student Handbook or Program of Study from their website to analyze courses offered

## Search EdFind

There are **over 300 institutions** offering degree programs in audiology, speech-language pathology and speech, language and hearing science available in EdFind.

The information in EdFind came directly from the data submitted by academic programs in their CSD Education Survey.

### Search by Program Criteria

#### Degree Type:

- All Degree Types
- Undergraduate (e.g., BA, BS)
- Master's (e.g., MA, MS)
- Clinical entry level doctoral (e.g., AuD)
- Post-entry level clinical doctoral (e.g., CScD, SLPD, AuD)
- Non Clinical Master's (e.g., MS)
- Research doctoral (e.g., PhD)

#### Area of Study:

- All Areas of Study
- Audiology
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Speech and Hearing Sciences

Location:

[Search by Program Criteria](#)



[SEARCH EDFIND](#)

[FREQUENTLY REQUESTED LISTS](#)

[ABOUT EDFIND](#)



# M.A. SLP Programs in New England

## Connecticut

- University of Connecticut
- Southern Connecticut State University
- Sacred Heart University

## Massachusetts

- Boston University
- Bridgewater State University
- Emerson College
- MGH Institute of Health Professions
- Northern University
- University of Massachusetts/Amherst
- Worcester State University

## New Hampshire

- University of New Hampshire

## Maine

- University of Maine

## Rhode Island

- University of Rhode Island

# Examples of M.A. SLP Plan of Study

## Appendix A: Sample Speech-Language Curriculum

Fall 1	Course	Credits
SLHS 5336	Clinical Practicum in SLP	3
SLHS 5345	Motor Speech Disorders	3
SLHS 5346	Dysphagia	3
SLHS 5348	Language Disorders I: Birth to 5	3
SLHS 5353	Articulation and Phonological Disorders	3
SLHS 5377	Introduction to Research Methods	3
Spring 1	Course	Credits
SLHS 5336	Clinical Practicum in SLP	3
SLHS 5342	Aphasia	3
SLHS 5343	Cognitive-Communicative Disorders	3
SLHS 5349	Language Disorders II: Kindergarten to 12	3
SLHS5359	Voice Disorders	3
May Term/Summer	Course	Credits
SLHS 5302	Summer Clinical Practicum in Speech Disorders	1
Fall 2	Course	Credits
SLHS 5335	Fluency Disorders	3
EPSY 5188 <sup>[1]</sup>	School-based Practicum	6
EPSY 5108 <sup>[1]</sup>	Students with Special Needs	3
SLHS 5336	Clinical Practicum in SLP	3
SLHS 5361	Advanced Speech Science	3
SLHS	Elective <sup>[2]</sup>	3
Spring 2	Course	Credits
EPSY 5188	School-based Practicum	6
EPSY 5108	Students with Special Needs	3
SLHS 5336	Clinical Practicum in SLP	3
SLHS 5374	Clinical Project in SLP	3
SLHS	Elective	3

<sup>[1]</sup> EPSY 5188 may be taken either in the fall or spring terms of the second year (but not both terms) of the MA program. EPSY 5108 is taken in the same semester as EPSY 5188. Students also register for 3 credits of SLHS 5336 in the same term.

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## List of Required and Elective Courses in Speech-Language Pathology

Course Number	Course Title	Required or Elective
CMD 492 (1-3)	Special Problems: Must be Named for POS	E (Fall/Spring)
CMD 493	Cult/Ling Diversity in CMD	R (Fall/Spring)
CMD 494 (3)	Autism & PDD	E (Spring)
CMD 504	Research in CMD	R (Spring)
CMD 550* See below!	Audiology for the SLP	R (Fall)
CMD 560	Voice Disorders	R (Spring)
CMD 561	Phonological Disorders	R (Fall)
CMD 563 (3)	Language Disorders In Infants & Toddlers	E (Spring)
CMD 564	Language Disorders in School-aged Children	R (Spring)
CMD 565 (1)	Pre-Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	R (Fall/Spring)
CMD 569	Tests & Measurement in Speech-Language Pathology	R (Fall)
CMD 570 (1, 3)	Clinical Practicum in CMD	R (Fall/Spring/Summer)
CMD 571 (2)	Medical Speech Pathology	E (Summer/Odd)
CMD 580 (2)	Augmentative & Alternative Communication	E (Spring/Odd)
CMD 581	Dysphagia	R (Fall)
CMD 582	Motor Speech Disorders	R (Spring)
CMD 583	Acquired Cognitive Disorders	R (Spring)
CMD 584	Language Disorders in Developmentally Young Children	R (Fall)
CMD 585	Language Disorders in Adults	R (Fall)
CMD 586 (3)	Multisensory Instruction in Language & Literacy	E (January term)
CMD 592	Disorders of Fluency	R (Fall)
CMD 594 (1)	Counseling in CMD	E (Fall/Even)
CMD 598 (1-3)	Special Problems: Must be Named for POS	E (Fall/Spring)

\* REGISTERING FOR CMD 550: a) **Take three credits of 550 if you have not taken a course devoted to diagnostic audiology and one devoted to aural rehabilitation.** b) **Take two credits of 550 if you have taken a three-credit course devoted to aural rehabilitation but no course in diagnostic audiology.** c) **Take one credit of 550 if you have completed a course devoted to diagnostic audiology but have not taken**

# Results

- All schools offer an early language course but this covers ages birth to five with a focus on preschool
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# Language Disorders: birth to five

This course explores communication disorders from infancy through the preschool period. Topics addressed include theoretical frameworks for the assessment and treatment of childhood language disorders, etiology and characteristics of language/communication disorders in infants and preschool children, principles and methods of assessment and intervention, multicultural issues in assessment and intervention, and current issues in the early childhood language disorders research literature.

Class sessions and assignments are designed to facilitate students' critical thinking and problem solving abilities in the area of infant and preschool communication/language disorders

The nature, assessment, and intervention of delayed and disordered language in children birth to five years of age.

# Results

- Only one university in New England offers a course specifically geared towards early intervention services
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# MGH Institute of Health Professions

A total of 15 credits of Clinical Practicum must be completed from the following courses:

CD-761 Clinical Practicum - Spoken Language Disorders	3
CD-762 Clinical Practicum- Reading and Writing Disorders	3
CD-771 Year 1 Clinical Outplacement 1	3
- or	0
CD-871 Year 2 Clinical Outplacement 1	3
CD-872 Year 2 Clinical Outplacement 2	3
CD-873 Year 2 Clinical Outplacement 3	3

A total of 9 credits of electives must be completed from the following courses:

CD-735 Foundations of Medical Speech Pathology	1
CD-824B Diagnostic Methods and Clinical Processes in Reading and Writing Disorders II	2
CD-825 Reading and Writing in the Schools	2
CD-826 Leading Literacy Change	1
CD-827 Teaching Narrative and Expository Literacy	2
CD-834 Alaryngeal Speech (Post-Laryngectomy) Seminar	1-
CD-836 Genetics in Communication Disorders	2
CD-855 Acquired Reading and Writing Disorders	2
CD-856 Med SLP II: Clinical Decision Making	2
CD-857 Adult Neurodegenerative Syndromes Affecting Language and Cognition	2
CD-858 Special Topics	1- 3
CD-859 Advanced Autism Seminar II	2
CD-861 Advanced Seminar in Voice Disorders	2
CD-895 Research Proposal in CSD	1
CD-896 Thesis Research I	1
CD-897 Thesis Research II	2
CD-899 Independent Study	1- 6
CH-740 Early Intervention: Birth to Age 3	2
CH-800 Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Disorders	1
CH-836 Theoretical and Practical Approaches to Counseling	2



- One out of thirteen schools offers a specific course geared toward education about early intervention services for M.A. SLP students
- This course is offered as an elective not a required course

# CH-740 Early Intervention: Birth to Age 3

This course provides theoretical and practical preparation for diagnosing and treating infants, toddlers and their families. Through lectures, readings, and discussions, students will understand Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP), service coordination, family-centered practice, and federal and state legislation. In addition, students will learn hands-on remediation techniques. They will also become familiar with the diagnostic tools used in Massachusetts to determine eligibility.

# Conclusion

- ❖ Early intervention education is not included in the required courses for M.A. SLP students in New England
- ❖ ASHA requires SLPs to have knowledge about language in general not specific to early intervention
- ❖ Content is assumed to be embedded into other courses
- ❖ The lack of education is due to requirements for certification



# Limitations

- ❖ Practicum experience not considered
- ❖ Outdated plan of study available online
- ❖ Concentration of professor teaching language courses
- ❖ Training received outside program of study

# Future directions

- ❖ Review inservice training and orientation provided to employees of birth to three companies
- ❖ Review CEUs available for professionals working in the birth to three setting

# References

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Questions  
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