Cochlear Implant Support Program

Communication Philosophy

Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) is an accessible ASL/English bilingual community in which people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing learn and work together without language and communication barriers.

Policy Regarding Use of Amplification

In assuring access to information, it is appropriate that accommodations be made for the reception of auditory information to meet individual needs. This includes supporting the use of amplification devices, such as cochlear implants (CIs), and providing encouragement for listening and learning through audition as appropriate.

Services and Therapy

A wide range of educational and support services are available to students with CIs such as:

- Speech and language services based on each student’s IEP
- Goals can focus on: auditory training, articulation and speech/language therapy, speechreading practice, signed and spoken language, literacy skills and use of assistive technology
- Opportunities for audition only and spoken language in informal and formal settings in accordance with the ISD Communication Philosophy
- Assessment, counseling and habilitation conducted by numerous specialists including psychologists, social workers, audiologist, and educators
- Peer support groups, facilitated by a staff person, to discuss cochlear implant issues
- Basic troubleshooting services and coordination for repair provided by the audiologist on staff
- Ongoing collaboration with cochlear implant centers to support therapy and device use

Speech and language services are provided individually or in groups by state-licensed, ASHA certified speech-language pathologists.

Deaf adults, including some who have CIs, are also present in a variety of capacities on campus to serve as role models for students and their families.
Statistics
With advancements in early identification and technology, as well as increased awareness of CIs, the number of ISD students with CIs also continues to grow.

Recommended Websites

**CI Support Page at ISD**
Comprehensive look at the services and products of all 3 CI manufacturers including a picture guide of the individual processors

**CI Manufacturer Websites**
http://AdvancedBionics.com
Advanced Bionics

http://CochlearAmericas.com
Cochlear Corporation

http://MedEI.com
Med-EI

**General CI Information**
(CI Education Center at Gallaudet University)
Educational information and links for various topics including using sign language with students with CIs, information available in English and Spanish

http://handsandvoices.org
Parent and professional information and resources on a variety of topics, including CIs

http://nad.org/issues/technology/assistive-listening/cochlear-implants

For more information about our school or to give us your feedback, please contact:

**Illinois School for the Deaf**
Admissions and Records Office
217-479-4297

For information on FREE training, including cochlear implant topics, please contact:

877-339-2686
http://www.bit.ly/ISDOutreachCI