

# ⋮LIGHTHOUSE⋮

FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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## LightHouse Little Learners Program Information for Professionals

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### 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.

Our LightHouse Little Learners Program in northern and central California aligns fully with this mission through family-centered services to serve children, birth to age three, who are blind, deafblind, have low vision or neurological visual impairment, or whose developmental delays include blindness or low vision.

LightHouse Little Learners will work with families to help each child explore the world with curiosity and independence to their highest potential. To begin this journey, we will provide early intervention services in the natural environment of families' homes and communities.

Highly qualified specialists will use early intervention best practices to build relationships and coach families and caregivers as they learn more about how blindness and low vision may affect their child's early development.

LightHouse Little Learners is blindness-positive and rooted in the philosophy of infant and family mental health, which supports the child's developing capacity to experience, regulate, and express emotions; form close relationships; explore the environment and learn in the context of family and community. Young children who are blind or have low vision are at risk of not developing fully in these areas.

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



A Dad and Mom share a fun moment, as they walk with their three daughters: one is in a stroller with two girls walking alongside.



Two teachers, an intern and a volunteer, smile and wave, while sitting at a picnic table, surrounded by buckets for tie-dying fabric.



Mom holds her young daughter, who is facing her as they bounce in a pool on a sunny day.

## LightHouse Little Learners Program Services\*

Families and community agencies will have access on an individual family basis to a wide array of culturally-responsive services which may include:

- Assessment for infants and toddlers who are at risk for developmental delays due to blindness or low vision or whose developmental delays include blindness or low vision, and their families
- Child-find outreach in the community, which is consistent with one of LightHouse's Strategic Plan goals to "identify...the best possible referral source partnerships...and move to establish or strengthen them"
- Highly qualified specialists in early childhood blindness and low vision who participate as full members of the child and family's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Transition Teams, and whose training is informed by reflective practice as they thoughtfully consider their interactions and participate in a process of continuous learning
- Engagement of the child and family in a play and daily routines-based approach, developed with the family in the natural environment of the home
- Access to adapted multi-sensory toys and materials
- Use of specialized approaches in support of each child's developmental level, including:
  - Early literacy, and pre-Braille awareness
  - Hands-on exploration, process-oriented learning; and teaching which is informed by the Active Learning philosophy of Danish Educator, Lilli Nielsen
  - Assistive and Access Technology, based on each child's readiness and needs
  - Early Orientation and Mobility activities which encourage each child to move safely at home and in the community
- Consultation with community-based early intervention programs to recommend adaptations, resources and accommodations for young children who are blind or have low vision
- Preparation for and accompaniment of families to their child's important medical appointments
- Family advocacy training to empower families in medical, educational and social settings
- Opportunities for families to build community and long-lasting friendships as well as to share stories, resources and experiences with other families, mentors and specialists

*\*In keeping with LightHouse's deep commitment to staff, family and child safety in the time of COVID-19, LightHouse Little Learners services will also be provided in accordance with local and state health and safety guidelines.*

## Learn More About LightHouse Little Learners! Make An Inquiry!

To learn more about LightHouse Little Learners services:

VISIT: [www.lighthouse-sf.org/lighthouse-little-learners](http://www.lighthouse-sf.org/lighthouse-little-learners)

EMAIL: [littlelearners@lighthouse-sf.org](mailto:littlelearners@lighthouse-sf.org)

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

LightHouse Little Learners Program welcomes inquiries from:

**Family members, regional centers, Local Education Agencies (LEA), medical or education professionals, hospital discharge nurses and social workers, community agencies, therapists**

Regional Center Vendor #: HG 0132      Service Code: 805/1:1 Infant Program