

## Immunization Policy

The Arc of the South Shore contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide Early Intervention services to the families in seven towns on the South Shore of Boston. As a certified Early Intervention Program, the First Program must adhere to all the policies of the Mass DPH. The following is the DPH policy regarding immunizations:

**All children enrolled in Early Intervention are required to be up to date on immunizations according to the recommendation of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, unless the child's parent has stated, in writing, that vaccination or immunization conflicts with his/her sincere religious beliefs or if the child's physician has stated, in writing, that the vaccination or immunization is medically contraindicated.**

**All children enrolled in Early Intervention should be screened for lead at least once between the ages of nine and twelve months and annually thereafter until the age of thirty-six months. For all children enrolled in Early Intervention prior to nine months of age, a statement signed by a physician that the infant has been screened for lead is obtained by the Early Intervention program by the time the infant reaches one year of age.**

Service Coordinators will request a signed release of information upon entering the First Program and every six months subsequently enrolled in order to gather the required information. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Service Coordinator or Program Director.