



Kansas School for the Deaf Early Childhood Peer Model Program

We are excited to announce that time has arrived for interested families to apply for their hearing child's enrollment in our Early Childhood program as a peer model. Our program offers a developmentally appropriate and bilingual early childhood program for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. We believe that children learn from other children as well as from adults.

The inclusion of early childhood peers who are hearing benefits both groups. Children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing are exposed to additional spoken language. Children who are hearing are exposed to additional American Sign Language. Peer models will also learn and gain their own preschool skills while in our Early Childhood program. The classroom ratio is four deaf/hard-of-hearing children to one hearing peer.

Peer models are also selected by the following criteria:

- **Peer model children have older sibling(s) attending KSD.**
- **Peer model children pass all portions of a developmental screening given by their local school district and supply a copy before being scheduled for the 3-day observation.**
- **Peer model children obtain an average score of 2.5 or above in the areas of Initiative, Social Relations, and Language & Literacy as measured by the Child Observation Record (COR). The COR will be done by the KSD Early Childhood Team.**
- **An annual pure tone hearing screening by your local school district or KSD will be required.**
- **Peer model children must be toilet-trained before they can enter the program.**
- **Peer model children are at least three and a half years old by September 1st.**

If you are interested, please contact Elementary/Early Childhood Principal, Petra M. Horn-Marsh, PhD, via email phornmarsh@kssdb.org or by phone 913-791-0520.