

Children Communicating, Connecting and in Community

Information for Families

Children Communicating, Connecting and in Community provides a quality early learning program which supports the development of communication skills for children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

This pilot program provides access to early educational intervention for children who are deaf and hard of hearing to reduce communication barriers when communicating with their families, other children and in the community. The ability to communicate well is necessary for success in school and overall well-being in childhood and in the future.

Who can apply for this program?

Parents of three and four-year-old children who are deaf and hard of hearing can apply to have their child attend the program. Four-year-old children will be given priority. The program will accept children who use either visual or oral languages.

Children who are deaf and hard of hearing or who have a connection to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities may also apply to the program. This could include children who have a parent, sibling or other family member who is deaf and hard of hearing. This could also include three or four-year-old friends or peers the child would play with outside of the classroom to support ongoing learning and communication in community and daily life.



Where will this program be available?

There is one program available in Regina and one in Saskatoon. Families are responsible to transport children to and from the program.

What will the program be like?

The program runs half days and has a maximum of sixteen children and three staff. Children will attend four days a week. The fifth day is for family and community events. The timing of these events is flexible to meet the needs of families (e.g. an evening session to accommodate parents who are working or in school to attend).

The program is play based and will use real life materials and experiences to provide meaningful and interesting learning activities for the children. The program is based on the Ministry of Education's early learning principles of:

- Children as Competent Learners (building confidence and independence)
- Holistic Development and Learning (physical, social emotional, intellectual and spiritual)
- Strong Positive Relationships (building social skills to connection with other children)

The program also aligns with the Ministry of Education's philosophy and practices of inclusive education.

How will my child's needs be met?

Each child who is Deaf and Hard of Hearing will have an Inclusion and Intervention Plan (IIP) which identifies the child's strengths, goals, needed supports and transition plans. This plan is created by a collaborative team which includes the family, educator(s), and supporting professionals or organizations that work with the child.

Additional safety methods will be in place within the program to ensure the safety and well-being of all children.

Professional support such as a Speech and Language Pathologist will be available to support the educators to learn new strategies, provide an environment which supports language development and monitor the children's development. This support is not meant to replace individual therapy that children may be accessing from other organizations.

Regular contact and interaction with individuals from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community made through the program will provide children and families with role models and connections within the community.

What is the role of family in the program?

Family engagement is an important part of the program. Young children are more successful when their parents are aware and involved in the learning program. Many opportunities to participate and support your child's learning in meaningful ways will be made available to you.

In addition, you will be part of the collaborative team, identifying goals for your child, problem solving as needed and planning for the transition into school together.

The early learning program is only a small part of the day and families are instrumental in continuing effective supports at home and over time.

How do I apply to the program?

Contact [Regina Public Schools](#) or the [Saskatoon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society](#) for more information.

"The Ministry of Education supports the belief, attitude and approach of inclusion for meeting the needs of all individuals. Inclusive education creates environments where students feel accepted, valued, confident and safe to engage in learning and where school personnel, families, students and community agencies form collaborative teams that are committed to a shared vision to support students in reaching their full potential."

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education (2017), *Inclusive Education*, p.2

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Funded by the Government of
Canada through the Early Learning
and Child Care Agreement