



Ventura County SELPA Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program



Ventura County SELPA Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Ventura County SELPA Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program is that all children have access to the educational program for communication, social and academic development.

Qualified specialists provide assessment and intervention in a variety of communication modes. We recognize that educational decisions may need to be changed over time to reflect the student's emerging strengths, needs, and preferences.

Our process is to partner with family members, recognizing that parents are the primary decision-makers and advocates for their children. Cultural and linguistic diversity are valued and respected.

Program Overview

The Program is designed to address the unique needs of all children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth through their school years. Assessments are conducted by a multi-disciplinary team, and services are specified in the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). Options range from general education classes to specialized classes specifically designed for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Services available for students may include environmental modifications, audiology, speech therapy, occupational therapy, interpretation, and psychological services.

Qualifications of Staff

Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Specialist

A DHH Specialist has completed graduate coursework and received a credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing which authorizes services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Most DHH Specialists have a Masters Degree in special education or deaf education.

DHH/ Cochlear Implant Specialist

The SELPA employs one DHH Specialist with advanced training and experience in working with children with cochlear implants. This specialist is available to consult with school district teams.

Sign Language Interpreter

A sign language interpreter has achieved a required level of competency established by criteria set by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

Speech - Language Pathologist

A speech language pathologist has completed graduate coursework, clinical experience, and has complied with state education certification and state licensure standards.

Audiologist

An audiologist has a graduate degree in audiology, clinical experience, and has complied with state education certification and state licensure standards.

Audiology Program

The Ventura County Office of Education provides comprehensive audiology services for children from birth through their school years. Testing services include specialized techniques to test young or “difficult to test” children. Testing is conducted at the Hearing Conservation Facility, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. Appointments can be scheduled upon referral by phoning (805) 437-1380.

Infant / Toddler Services (0-36 months)

Infants and Toddlers and their families are supported with education and resources at this important developmental time. Early Intervention services with trained specialists may include home visits, play groups, referrals to community resources, and a variety of professionals to help with child development.

Preschool Programs (3-4 years old)

Preschool programs provide developmentally-based activities in a structured setting. Students are exposed to a language-enriched environment focusing on developing individual strengths and building community skills, and are actively encouraged to become independent thinkers while participating in informal and formal activities.

All programs have a strong emphasis on auditory learning to build language skills, with an option of specific programs emphasizing Total Communication or oral skills. The special needs of preschoolers with cochlear implants are addressed and preschool students are integrated with hearing peers whenever possible. Sign Language training may be provided and social interactions with Deaf role models are encouraged. Parent participation is an important component of the program.

Elementary School Programs

Students in elementary school programs receive specialized instruction in developmentally appropriate groupings addressing grade level California state standards. Learning occurs in a Natural Language framework emphasizing experiential, hands-on, and active learning activities. Instruction is modified and individualized if needed. Students have opportunities for social interactions with hearing peers and staff, and for inclusion in general education programs with support as needed.



Middle School Programs

Students in middle school programs receive specialized instruction with a D/HH Specialist and a range of full or partial day general education opportunities, with interpreter support as needed. Students participate in all general education activities with hearing peers and staff.

High School Programs

The high school programs provide a general education framework with special education services, which may include full or partial day general education classes with interpreter support, or specialized instruction.

Transition to Adult Life

As students prepare to leave the public schools and enter adult life, the IEP team will work with the student and family to identify their dreams and goals for the future. At age 16, this will become part of the IEP process, and your son/daughter is required to be invited. Informal career assessments will be administered, and s/he will identify goals for themselves in the areas of independent living, training and education, and employment. These goals become the basis for continued school services. When your child exits public school (through graduating, "aging out", or voluntarily leaving after age 18)

the team will assist the student and their family in accessing needed supports in the adult system through an Exit

Summary, which may include referrals to:

- College Disabled Students Programs (assistance with registration, note-takers, interpreters, etc)
- Department of Rehabilitation (vocational training, equipment, adapted devices).
- Social Security (monthly cash benefits for eligible clients)
- Local community supports (GLAD, etc.)



Frequently Asked Questions

Where are programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing located?:

Buttercup Preschool
30798 Russell Ranch Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91362
(818)597-2153

Horizon Hills School (Preschool Program)
33 Greta St., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 492-4051

Simi Elementary School (Preschool and Elementary Programs)
2956 School St., Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805)520-6760

Loma Vista Elementary School (Preschool and Elementary Programs)
300 Lynn Drive, Ventura, CA 93003
(805)641-5443

Cabrillo Middle School
1426 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA 93001
(805)641-5155 Extension 1134

Hillside Junior High (Middle School Program)
2222 E. Fitzgerald Rd., Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805)520-6810

Rio Mesa High School
545 Central Avenue, Oxnard, CA 93030
(805)385-2724

Who Can I Talk To?

Briggs Elementary	805-525-7540
Conejo Valley Unified	805-497-9511
Fillmore Unified	805-524-6000
Hueneme Elementary	805-488-3588
Las Virgenes Unified	818-880-4000
Mesa Union Elementary	805-485-1411
Moorpark Unified	805-378-6300
Mupu Elementary	805-525-6111
Oak Park Unified	818-735-3200
Ocean View Elementary	805-488-4441
Ojai Unified	805-640-4300
Oxnard Elementary	805-487-3918
Oxnard Union High	805-385-2500
Pleasant Valley Elementary	805-482-2763
Rio Elementary	805-485-3111
Santa Clara Elementary	805-525-4573
Santa Paula Elementary	805-933-8800
Santa Paula Union High	805-525-0988
Simi Valley Unified	805-520-6500
Somis Union Elementary	805-386-8258
Ventura Unified	805-641-5000
VCOE	805-383-1900

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
3417 Volta Place NW
Washington DC 20007-2778
Phone: 202-337-5220
TTY/TDD: Same
Web: www.agbell.org

Auditory-Verbal International, Inc. (AVI)
2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 402
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-739-0395
TTY/TDD: same
Web: www.auditory-verbal.org

BEGINNINGS For Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc.
3900 Barrett Drive, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone: 800-541-4327 and 919-571-4843
TTY/TDD: Same
Web: www.ncbegin.com

Boys Town National Research Hospital
555 North 30th Street
Omaha, NE 68131
Phone: 402-498-6638
TTY/TTD: 402-498-6543
Web: www.boystown.org

Central Institute for the Deaf
818 South Euclid Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110-1549
Phone: 314-977-0000 or 877-444-4574
TTY/TDD: 314-977-0025
Web: www.cid.wustl.edu

Hands and Voices
A parent driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing unbiased support to families
Phone: (866)422-0422 V/TTY
www.handsandvoices.org

National Information Center for Deafness (NICD), Gallaudet University
800 Florida Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695
Phone: 202-651-5051
TTY/TDD: 202-651-5052
Web: www.gallaudet.edu

National Information Clearinghouse on Children Who Are Deaf-Blind
354 North Monmouth Avenue
Monmouth, OR 97361
Phone: 800-438-9376
TTY/TDD: 800-854-7013
Web: www.tr.wou.edu/dblink

STATE and LOCAL RESOURCES

California Department of Education:
State Special Schools and Services Division,
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit
(916) 445-4550

California School for the Deaf, Riverside
3044 Horace Street
Riverside, CA 92506
Phone: 909-782-6502
TTY: 909-782-6501
Fax: 909-782-6509

Ventura County SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area)
777 Aileen Street, Camarillo
(805) 482-2353
www.venturacountyselpa.com

Rainbow Connection Family Resources Center
2220 E. Gonzales Road, Oxnard 93036
(800) 332-3679 (805) 485-9643

Tri Counties GLAD
(Greater Los Angeles Area Agency on Deafness, Inc.)
702 County Square Drive, Suite 101
Ventura CA 93003
Phone: 805-644-6322
TTY: 805-644-6323
www.tc.glad.org