



## **Kansas School for the Deaf Early Childhood Peer Model Program**

We are excited to announce that interested families may apply for their hearing child's enrollment in our Early Childhood program as a peer model for one school year. 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. **Please see the application criteria. Deadline to apply is March 29, 2019.**

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. Each classroom may have one hearing peer.

### Peer models are selected by the following criteria:

- Peer model children must be at least 4 years old and toilet-trained at the time of application.
- Peer model children have Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing siblings attending or planning to attend 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 in April. If selected peer models wish to continue as 2<sup>nd</sup> year peer models, they do not need to undergo a developmental screening but need to submit a written request.
- 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.
- A hearing student with an IEP cannot be considered for the peer model slot. The peer model program is to provide "typical developing peers" with deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

If you are interested, please contact Elementary/Early Childhood Head Teacher, Petra M. Horn-Marsh, PhD, via email [phornmarsh@kssdb.org](mailto:phornmarsh@kssdb.org) or by phone 913-324-5848.