



Early Childhood Programs

*Education for children at
Rochester School for the Deaf
often begins at birth and
always focuses on the family.*





At Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD), our Early Childhood Programs support families in ways that effectively help them to understand and succeed with many of the unique challenges they will face.

RSD teachers and support staff provide comprehensive evaluation and diagnostic services to help develop an individualized plan to meet the social and academic needs of each young child in our programs.



Infants, Toddlers and Twos

RSD's Family Instructional and Resource Service Team (FIRST) provides for the needs of infants, toddlers, and twos from birth to age three. The FIRST team

delivers a comprehensive array of services, using curriculum materials from the SKI-HI Institute, *The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos* and *Teaching Strategies GOLD®*. We work with children and families in their homes and at our Early Childhood Center (ECC) on the RSD campus.

Our home-based program (birth to 18 months) includes:

- Support for families as they adjust to the unique communication and socialization needs of their children
- Regular visits from specially certified preschool and speech teachers who are bilingual and fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and English, and who work with deaf and hard of hearing children using all types of assistive devices including cochlear implants
- Opportunities to network with deaf and hard of hearing members of the RSD learning community who may provide:
 - Access to other role models who are deaf and hard of hearing
 - Insights into Deaf culture
 - Assistance with learning ASL
 - Discussion of their life experiences

Our Early Childhood Center-based program (18 months to age 3) includes:

- Two or three half- or full-day sessions per week. Sessions gradually increase as the child grows and develops
- Age-appropriate instruction, creative play and time for socialization from specially certified teachers who are bilingual and fluent in ASL and English
- Continuation of home-based services, as needed

We Recognize and Value

- Parents and their intimate knowledge of their child
- The importance of educating deaf and hard of hearing children as well as members of their family
- Collaborative partnerships between teachers, therapists, specialists, and families
- Parent's rights to make informed decisions about appropriate educational options for their child
- Opportunities for parents to network with each other through workshops and school activities

Preschool Program

Our preschool program builds solid educational and social foundations for deaf children ages 3 and 4 who live in the twenty-two county RSD service area surrounding Rochester, Western and Central New York. Utilizing curriculum materials from the SKI-HI Institute, *The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos* and *Teaching Strategies GOLD®*, our multi-faceted approach addresses the unique needs of each child and his or her family. Through our center-based full-day program, full and inclusive communication accessibility is a critical aspect of each child's daily experience.

Extended School Year Summer Program

Extended School Year is an important component of RSD programming. Many children who need on-going services attend throughout the summer months to build further on their development. We continue to follow the curriculum materials from the SKI-HI Institute, *The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos* and *Teaching Strategies GOLD®*, while providing reinforcement services through a comprehensive array of recreational and learning activities. Often, we take advantage of the nice weather to promote natural learning. In addition, we incorporate a variety of field trips, hands-on and interactive learning activities, and outdoor experiential activities to ensure that children enjoy all aspects of the learning process. Children, who are part of the ECC and whose CPSE or CSE has approved

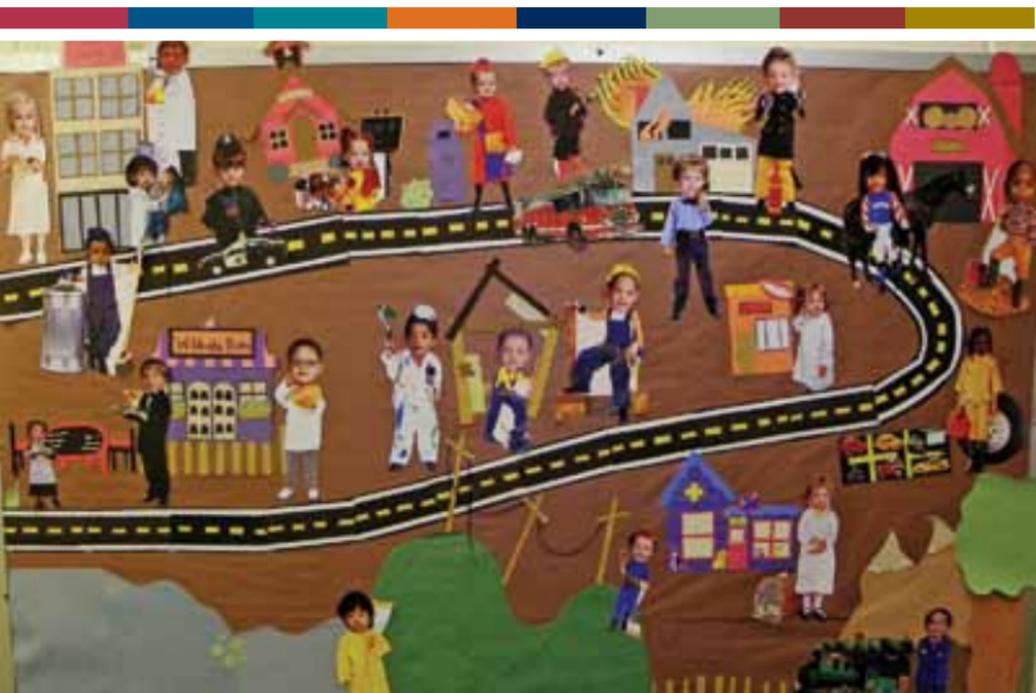


Extended School Year participation, are eligible to attend our summer program.

Parent Involvement

Parents have many options to become intimately involved in RSD and their children's education and development including:

- ECC and Parent Staff Association meetings, family brunches and dinners, home visits, and classroom holiday celebrations
- ASL classes, special topic forums and group discussions presented by RSD faculty, specialists and invited presenters
- Shared Reading Project
- Special summer classes for our youngest center-based children
- Family events and celebrations



To learn more about Early Childhood Programs at Rochester School for the Deaf, please visit the RSD Web site at www.RSDeaf.org.



Response Card—We invite you to fill out this card and return it to us. —**Thank you!**

I am:

- Parent/guardian of a deaf or hard of hearing child/children
 Teacher/other professional serving deaf and hard of hearing children and families
 School district/Service Providers to deaf and hard hearing children and families
 Other (explain) _____

I would like to:

- Discuss enrolling my child/children in RSD programs
 Tour Rochester School for the Deaf
 Network with RSD staff and families in Early Childhood Programs
 Receive newsletters and other information about RSD via mail/e-mail
 Other (explain) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip code _____

Phone/VP number _____

E-Mail address _____

How did you learn about RSD?

- WWW Friend RSD parent/family School district Service Provider
 Other (explain) _____



Thank you
for the
contribution
of your
stamp.

Rochester School for the Deaf
1545 St. Paul Street
Rochester, NY 14621
ATTN: Director of Early Childhood Programs

With Regents-level educational programs, outreach services, and cultural support, RSD is one of America's premier schools specializing in the education of children with hearing loss. Since 1876, RSD has built successful futures for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families in Western and Central New York State.



ROCHESTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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www.RSDeaf.org