

Parent Checklist: Preschool/Kindergarten Placement for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

This checklist is intended to assist parents when considering preschool or kindergarten placement options for their deaf or hard of hearing child. The information should be obtained through observation and discussion with the current early intervention provider and the prospective teacher(s) and IEP team. Placement decisions should consider the child's communication, pre-academic, and social needs in the context of the proposed learning environment.

Teacher Interview

Name of School: _____ Date of Observation: _____

Individual Interviewed: _____

Title: ___ Deaf Education Teacher check type: classroom itinerant consultative
 ___ Preschool or Kindergarten Teacher ___ Special Education Teacher ___ Other

If not a deaf education teacher/specialist, describe previous experience with children who are deaf or hard of hearing: _____

Days program offered: _____ Hours per day: _____

Child's communication mode(s): _____ Mode(s) observed in classroom: _____

Total number of children in classroom: _____ Number of children with hearing loss: _____

Age span of children: ___ to ___ Child: adult ratio: _____

Average speaking/signing distance between teacher and child: _____ ft

Number of children who are typical language models: _____

Amplification used or available: ___ Personal FM ___ Classroom FM/Infrared Other _____

Related and Support Services:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Available?</u>		<u>Has had training with D/HH?</u>		<u># of hours in classroom/week</u>
Speech-language therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
Educational audiology	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
Occupational therapy/physical therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
Psychology	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
Counseling by psychologist or social worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____

Other support services available:

___ Parent counseling and training ___ Parent Support Groups/Activities
 ___ Transportation ___ After school programs

Comments _____

Classroom Observation

I. Classroom- Physical Environment	YES	NO
1. Is the room size conducive to learning? (A large room/high ceiling can distort sound; a small room may be noisier.)	_____	_____
2. Is the room adequately lit? (Lighting and shadows may affect speechreading and signing abilities.)	_____	_____
3. Is the ambient noise level for the classroom within recommended standards (noise ≤ 35 dbA and reverberation $\leq .6$ msec, ANSI S12.60.2002)?	_____	_____
4. Is the room treated to reduce noise (carpet on floor, acoustical ceiling tiles, window coverings, cork or other wall coverings)?	_____	_____
5. Are noise sources in the classroom minimized (e.g., fish tanks, ventilation/heater fans, computers)?	_____	_____
6. Does noise from adjacent spaces (hallways, outside the building) spill over into classroom?	_____	_____
Comments _____		

II. General Learning Environment	YES	NO
7. Does teacher(s)/adult(s) use a variety of techniques to elicit positive behavior from children?	_____	_____
8. Are there a variety of centers (fine motor, art, manipulatives, science, music, dramatic play, sensory, literacy)?	_____	_____
9. Is there a schedule identifying daily routines?	_____	_____
10. Is there a behavior management system that provides clear structure for the class and consistent rules?	_____	_____
11. Does the curriculum include a variety of themes, topics, and children's literature?	_____	_____
12. Does the teacher use lesson plans to guide daily activities?	_____	_____
13. Are activities modified to meet a variety of children's needs?	_____	_____
Comments _____		

III. Instructional Style	YES	NO
14. Classroom Discourse and Language		
a. Are the teacher(s) and other adults good language models for the children?	_____	_____
b. Is language consistently accessible to the child? (If sign is used, do all adults in the classroom consistently sign, including their communications with other adults?)	_____	_____
c. Are peer responses repeated?	_____	_____

- d. Is vocabulary and language expanded by an adult? _____
15. Teacher's Speaking Skills _____
- a. Is enunciation clear? _____
- b. Is rate appropriate? _____
- c. Is loudness appropriate? _____
- d. Is facial expression used to clarify the message? _____
- e. Are gestures used appropriately? _____
- f. Are teacher's (or other speaker's) lips available for speechreading? _____
- g. Is teacher's style animated? _____
- h. Is a buddy system available to provide additional assistance or clarification? _____
16. Use of Visual Information _____
- a. Are props used for stories and activities? _____
- b. Are appropriate attention-getting strategies utilized? _____
- c. Are fingerplays, action songs, and dramatic play used in circle time, story time, centers, etc. _____
17. Small Group/Circle Time _____
- a. Are all children encouraged to share and participate? _____
- b. Does the teacher face children when speaking? _____
- c. Do the children face one another when speaking? _____
- d. Does teacher lead group activities in an organized, but child-friendly manner? _____
- e. Is appropriate wait time utilized to encourage children to think and participate? _____
- f. Are children seated within the teacher's "arc of arms"? _____
- g. Does teacher obtain eye contact prior to and while speaking? _____
18. Use of Sign _____ Not Applicable
- a. Is sign consistently used by all adults in the class? _____
- b. Is sign consistently used by all children in the class? _____
- c. Does the type of sign used in the classroom match the signs used by your child? _____
- d. Is fingerspelling used? _____
- e. Are gestures used appropriately? _____
- f. Are there opportunities for parents and peers to learn to sign? _____
19. Opportunities for Hands-on Experience _____
- a. Are a variety of materials available? _____
- Check those used: books visual props audio tapes video tapes
objects for dramatic play manipulatives
- b. Are stories experienced in a variety of ways? _____
- c. Are there field trips? _____
- d. Are cooking experiences available? _____
- e. Are art and sensory activities conducted? _____
20. Amplification/Equipment _____ Not Applicable
- a. Are personal amplification (hearing aids/cochlear implant) and assistive devices (FM, infrared) checked at school each day? _____
- b. Is amplification used consistently in all learning environments? _____

Comments _____

Reflection

IV. Individual Child Considerations	YES	NO
21. Language Considerations/Abilities Think about how your child communicates thoughts, ideas, and needs. Think about how your child communicates and interacts with other children. Will your child's communication needs be nurtured in this classroom environment?	_____	_____
22. Social Interactions Think about how your child plays alone and in groups. Think about how your child interacts with other children. Will your child's social needs be nurtured in this classroom environment?	_____	_____
23. Auditory Skills Does your child attend well? Is your child able to listen in noise? Think about what your child does when he/she cannot hear? Does your child take responsibility for his/her hearing aids? Will your child's auditory needs be supported in this classroom environment?	_____	_____
Comments _____		

V. School Culture	YES	NO
24. Is there evidence that the school administration supports students with disabilities?	_____	_____
25. Is the school/district administrator knowledgeable about hearing loss?	_____	_____
26. Is the school committed to making the necessary accommodations for children with hearing loss?	_____	_____
27. Is the teacher open to consultation with other professionals or specialists?	_____	_____
28. Does the teacher provide opportunities for individualized attention?	_____	_____
29. Is the teacher welcoming of children with special needs?	_____	_____
30. Is the teacher willing to use amplification technology (hearing aids, FMs, cochlear implants)?	_____	_____
Comments _____		