

PEER GROUP
A PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR HARD OF
HEARING PRESCHOOLERS & THEIR
PARENTS/GUARDIANS



Why PEER?

- Research indicates hard of hearing children face unique communication challenges in regular settings. They can lack confidence and be at risk for low self-esteem.
- BCFHRC would like to help change the possible outcomes for hard of hearing children.

Who is the group for?

Parents or guardians of hard of hearing children, and preschool aged hard of hearing children who will be transitioning to Kindergarten in the fall.

What to Bring:

- ALL of your child's hearing equipment: HA, CI, FM
- A healthy snack for your child to share i.e.) cheese, crackers, fruit, vegetable
- Appropriate outdoor clothing (we will be playing outside)

PEER Helps Children:

- Learn independence with their hearing equipment
- Develop self-confidence, positive self-esteem and a sense of belonging
- Meet, play and learn with other hard of hearing children
- Develop social skills and make new friends
- Meet hard of hearing teenage and adult role models
- Learn effective communication strategies in group/social settings
- Use self-monitoring and self- help strategies to improve communication when listening is challenging
- Learn self-advocacy skills in preparation for Kindergarten



PEER Helps Parents:

- Discover and work through some main issues for children who are hard of hearing
- Learn and practice language facilitation strategies in everyday life
- Understand challenges for hard of hearing children through discussions with hard of hearing teens and their classroom hearing resource teachers
- Share concerns, hopes, fears about raising a child who has hearing loss
- Learn about supports in the school system and how to become an effective advocate for your child
- Get practical opportunities to work on increasing your child's competence and independence with hearing equipment by visiting hearing station upon arrival each day

What parents say about PEER:

“My child has better listening skills and is more confident with his equipment after seeing other children with the same gear.”

“Now we don't feel alone; I met other parents and Janie could talk about her hearing with children and adults who understood.”

“I communicate differently with my son than I did before PEER Group. I am more aware of how to communicate with him to boost his inner confidence. He now informs me if noises are too loud.”

I learned that my child will be okay in school by talking to the parents and students. The district hearing teacher helped me understand the services at the school level, too.”

