

Dear families,

You are invited to participate in the PEER program at BC Family Hearing Resource Centre this year, in preparation for your child starting kindergarten in September 2022.

Starting the process for transition into kindergarten now can help ensure you have the information you need to make informed choices, and your child is set up for the most successful transition possible. Specialized group education opportunities such as PEER can provide valuable information and support throughout this process. PEER is designed for families of deaf and hard of hearing children across the province who will be starting Kindergarten in September 2022. PEER consists of:

- **Ten evening online parent sessions** that run from October 2021 to April 2022, with a final session in October 2022 after your child has started Kindergarten. Each two-hour session is accessible to all and will be recorded, to allow for catch up on any that are missed.
- **A parent-participation children's classroom** in April 2022, with two options for families (COVID-19 pandemic restrictions allowing): a two-day in-person event in Surrey or a 1-day online event.

PEER discusses the educational options available for your child in BC, and teaches parents about the potential challenges deaf and hard of hearing children can face in school settings. These challenges can present themselves in many ways, and research shows that deaf and hard of hearing children are at risk for social, emotional and academic difficulties. PEER teaches parents how to effectively recognise and advocate for their child's specific communication and access needs in school. Our parent-participation children's classroom gives opportunity for your child to build their self-esteem and identity, and practice self-advocacy skills and strategies for access, all while getting to meet their peers.

The program's full agenda is outlined below. If you require further information, please contact Dr. Jen Gow at 604-584-2827 (toll free 1-877-584-2827) or jgow@bcfamilyhearing.com. There is no program fee but registration is required in order to access the course materials and sessions. If you plan to participate, please register as soon as possible. (A separate registration for the children's classroom component will follow in early 2022.)

Register for PEER at <https://hipaa.jotform.com/bcfamilyhearing/PEER2021-2022>

We are looking forward to working with you and your child during this extraordinary time in your family's life.

Sincerely,

The PEER Team

Vancouver Satellite Centre

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PH: 604-428-7949 FAX: 604-428-7950
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Main Surrey Centre

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Victoria Satellite Centre

#320-702 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1H2
PH: 778-265-8909 FAX: 778-265-8908
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PEER AGENDA

Session 1 – Tuesday, October 5th, 2021, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
NAVIGATING THE KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION

Session 2 - Tuesday, October 19th, 2021, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
EDUCATION FAIR

Session 3 – Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN IN THE CLASSROOM

Session 4 – Tuesday November 16th, 2021, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
EDUCATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES

Session 5 – Tuesday, December 7th, 2021, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
ACCESS: WHAT IS IT & HOW IS IT ACHIEVED? (PART 1)

Session 6 – Tuesday, January 11th, 2022, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
ACCESS: WHAT IS IT & HOW IS IT ACHIEVED? (PART 2)

Session 7 – Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CHILD SELF-ADVOCACY

Session 8 – Tuesday, March 1st, 2022, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
PARENT ADVOCACY

Session 9 – Tuesday, April 5th, 2022, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
TEAM MEETINGS, INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEP'S) & BEYOND

Parent-Participation Children's Classroom – In-person event Saturday & Sunday April 23rd & 24th, 2022
or
Online event Saturday April 23rd, 2022

Session 10 – Tuesday, October 25th, 2022, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
PEER IN ACTION

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