

PEER program information and schedule – Registration below!

You are invited to participate in PEER, our Kindergarten transition program at BC Family Hearing Resource Centre this year! PEER is designed for families of deaf and hard of hearing children across British Columbia and the Yukon who will be starting Kindergarten in **September 2025**. There are two parts to the program:

PEER for PARENTS: Ten evening online parent sessions that run from October 2024 to April 2025, with a final session in October 2025 after your child has started Kindergarten. Each session is 90 minutes long; a 60 minute information session is followed by an informal 30 minute question and answer time. The first hour will be recorded to allow for catch-up on any sessions you are unable to attend. The sessions are accessible to all, with interpreting and captioning provided. Topics include:

- Learning about the educational options available for your child in BC
- Understanding potential challenges your child may face in school settings, and strategies to address these
- Recognizing and advocating for your child's specific communication and access needs in school
- Effectively working with your child's team in school
- Developing your child's confidence and self-advocacy skills

PEER for KIDS: Three events for children to get-together. "Kindergarten Corner" at our summer Mingle & Play event, a pizza party (in-person events at Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria Centres in the fall, as well as smaller communities events around the province), and our two-day parent-participation children's PEER classroom in April 2025 (in-person at our Surrey Centre or an online option). These events provide opportunities for your child to build their self-esteem and identity while meeting their peers. The children's classroom also gives them practice with self-advocacy skills and strategies for access.

Schedule: The program's full schedule is outlined below and is also available here:

bit.ly/BCFHRC_PEER_2024-2025

Cost: There is no program fee, although there is a \$40 fee for the PEER binder, which is due at registration.

Registration is required for the PEER program. After registering, you will be invited to sign-up for each of the PEER for KIDS events nearer each date. This will let us know if you and your child will be able to join us.

For more information:

Contact Dr. Jen Gow 604-584-2827/toll free 1-877-584-2827 or jgow@bcfamilyhearing.com

Sincerely,

The PEER Team

PEER SCHEDULE

PEER for KIDS: Saturday, July 27th and/or Sunday, July 28th, 2024, 10:00am – 1:00pm
Kindergarten Corner at Mingle & Play (in-person, Surrey Centre)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 1: NAVIGATING THE KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 2: EDUCATION FAIR (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, November 6th, 2024, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 3: DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN IN THE CLASSROOM (online)

PEER for KIDS: Saturday, November 23rd, 2024, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
PIZZA PARTY (in-person, Surrey, Vancouver & Victoria Centres)
Specialized Outreach Consultants will coordinate other pizza parties around BC, dates will vary

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 4: EDUCATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 5: ACCESS: WHAT IS IT & HOW IS IT ACHIEVED? (PART 1) (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 6: ACCESS: WHAT IS IT & HOW IS IT ACHIEVED? (PART 2) (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, February 19th, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 7: SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CHILD SELF-ADVOCACY (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, March 5th, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 8: PARENT ADVOCACY (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 9: TEAM MEETINGS, INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEP'S) & BEYOND (online)

PEER for KIDS: Saturday & Sunday, April 12th & 13th, 2025
PARENT PARTICIPATION CHILDREN'S CLASSROOM (in-person, Surrey Centre or online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 10: PEER IN ACTION (online)

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