

Dear Parents,

Congratulations – your child will soon begin their journey into school! You are invited to participate in PEER, our Kindergarten transition program at BC Family Hearing Resource Centre. 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 2026. There are two parts to the program:

PEER for PARENTS: Ten evening online parent sessions that run from October 2025 to April 2026, with a final session in October 2026 after your child has started Kindergarten. Each session is 90 minutes long; a 60-minute webinar 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 miss. 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 event at our Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria Centres in the fall (with other PEER Kids events hosted in smaller communities around the province by our team), and our two-day parent-participation children's PEER classroom in April 2026 (in-person at our Surrey Centre or a ½ day online alternative). 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_2025-2026

Cost: There is no program fee.

Resource Binder: We provide a binder full of useful resources you can use during and after the PEER program. It is available at a subsidized cost of \$50. (PDFs of the materials will also be available for free online.) To receive a resource binder, please place your order here: https://form.jotform.com/bcfamilyhearing/PEER_Binder_Order_Form
Binders will be sent out in September/October 2025. Orders placed after this will be fulfilled subject to availability.

Participation: Registration is not required to join our PEER program. All families with deaf and hard of hearing children starting school in 2026 are eligible to join us. We will send you regular email updates with information, including how to join the webinars and sign-up for upcoming PEER for Kids events. **If you choose to not participate in PEER and you do not want to receive emails about PEER, please email info@bcfamilyhearing.com to unsubscribe from this program and its communications.**

For more information: Contact Dr. Jen Gow, 604-584-2827/toll free 1-877-584-2827, jgow@bcfamilyhearing.com

Sincerely,
The PEER Team

Vancouver Satellite Centre

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Main Surrey Centre

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PEER SCHEDULE 2025-2026

PEER for KIDS: Saturday, July 26th &/or Sunday, July 27th, 2025, 10:00am – 1:00pm
Kindergarten Corner at Mingle & Play (in-person, Surrey Centre)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 1 NAVIGATING THE KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, October 15th, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 2 EDUCATION FAIR: SCHOOL-AGED SUPPORTS (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, November 5th, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 3 DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN IN THE CLASSROOM: INCLUSION AND CONCENTRATION FATIGUE (online)

PEER for KIDS: Saturday, November 22nd, 2025, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
PIZZA PARTY (in-person, Surrey, Vancouver & Victoria Centres and Kelowna)
Other PEER Kids events will be hosted in smaller communities around BC, dates will vary

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 4 VISUAL ACCESS TO LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, January 7th, 2026, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 5 AUDITORY ACCESS TO LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, February 4th, 2026, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 6 EDUCATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, February 18th, 2026, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 7 CHILD SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-ADVOCACY (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 8 PARENT ADVOCACY (online)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, April 8th, 2026, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 9 SCHOOL MEETINGS (online)

PEER for KIDS: Saturday & Sunday, April 18th & 19th, 2026
PARENT PARTICIPATION CHILDREN'S CLASSROOM
(in-person, Surrey Centre with ½ day Sunday 19th online alternative)

PEER for PARENTS: Wednesday, October 21st, 2026, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Session 10 PEER IN ACTION (online)

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