



Focus this issue: **Early Childhood Education**

.: **SCHOOL'S IN!** .:



It's Fall, and that means "back to school" for families in our **Parent-Infant Program (PIP)** and **Family Preschool**. PIP is a nationally recognized program that HSDC began in 1952. The new Family Preschool had it's pilot program last year and this Fall opened into it's beautiful new classroom space. Both programs offer an inclusive approach for families with Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and hard of hearing children... PIP for ages birth to three and the Family Preschool for three to five-year-olds.

Our Goals

We believe children advance to the best of their abilities when their emerging skills are reinforced in a context of acceptance and respect. Using a team approach, we provide parents, siblings, extended family and caregivers the education and emotional support to create an environment that promotes a child's natural development of...

CONTACT HSDC FOR INFO & ENROLLMENT

ece@hsrc.org
206.323.5770
206.388.1275 TTY/Videophone

LEARN MORE

www.hsrc.org/ece

- .: **Language.** Through American Sign Language (ASL), Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE), spoken language
 - .: **Auditory Skills.** With hearing aids, FM systems, cochlear implants
 - .: **Cognition.** Through age appropriate play
- We are committed to parent education in visual communication, child development, hearing loss and amplification, community and parent-to-parent connections.

.: **CONTINUING EDUCATION** .:

Early Childhood Education (ECE) at HSDC is bilingual, incorporating both American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken/written English. Our staff work closely with other professionals as new techniques emerge for giving children the positive foundation in communication they deserve. Currently, they are undertaking department-wide **ASL/English Bilingual Professional Development** in collaboration with the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD). Karen Stueland, M.Ed., Assistant Director of ECE, and Cathy Mace, M.S., CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist and Deaf & Hard of Hearing Specialist, attended Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. for two weeks of training to become mentors. Mary Ellen Martone, M.A., Director of ECE, attended the Language Planning Program for one week at the same university. The three of them will be mentors for three ECE and four WSD staff and provide twelve seminars per semester over the course of two years.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Bellingham Family Program

The Bellingham office of the Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center has received numerous requests for services tailored to families and we are responding! On Thursday, October 4th, HSDC Bellingham began their first monthly **Family Program**. Participants join workshops and activities geared to promote effective communication in the family. From individual support to agency referrals to group events, this holistic approach ensures that everyone in your family receives the tools they need to build communication and understanding while becoming part of a larger community.

The program will focus on ASL learning for the whole family, with opportunities for children and parents to meet other families, and share in age-appropriate activities. We partner with the education system to ensure your child's needs are being met academically and socially. The great benefit of group meetings is the networking among individuals. People of all ages who share the range of challenges and positive experiences accompanied by hearing loss can attend meetings either led by a speaker or peer driven.

Friends and family enhance all of our experiences, and HSDC would like to extend a warm invitation to individuals and families to enjoy the Bellingham community. Our monthly Family Program is also a social venue, with dinner served as we cover a variety of topics. Please contact us to enroll. There is a \$10 fee per family for the month-long program (HSDC services are available to everyone, regardless of ability to pay.)

Do you need an FM system?

Our Seattle, Tacoma and Bellingham offices have **FM Systems** available free for loan to Deaf and hard of hearing community members. FM Systems are ALDs with individual volume control, which can be used in a conference setting where the sound system is inadequate. Businesses are charged applicable rental rates.



CONTACT HSDC BELLINGHAM

bellingham@hcdc.org

360.647.0910

360.647.8505 TTY/Videophone

:: GET INVOLVED ::



Early Childhood Education programs at HSDC provide critical intervention for children facing communication challenges - **so ALL children can achieve success in school and in life!** You are a key partner in helping HSDC achieve these goals. As a nonprofit organization, one third of our annual budget comes from contributions made by thoughtful friends, businesses, and community members.

In addition, your gift will assist HSDC in providing individual speech therapy for a child with Autism, reduced fee audiology services for a low-income senior, or advocacy services that empower Puget Sound workplaces to better serve people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Visit us at hcdc.org for complete program information. Every contribution makes a direct and measurable impact on someone's ability to communicate effectively!

In addition to traditional giving methods, we hope you'll consider the following...

GREAT NEWS FOR DONORS AGE 70½ OR BETTER!

Legislation Provides Tax Benefit to IRA Charitable Rollovers

Donors 70½ or older now have a tax-advantaged way to give to the charity of their choice. Under HR4, legislation signed into law on August 17, 2006, up to \$100,000 a year can be rolled over directly to charities from traditional IRAs - without affecting personal taxable income. Rollover distributions can easily be made to public charities such as HSDC. Please contact Kristina Williams, Chief Development Officer, for more information.

CONTACT HSDC'S DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

development@hsrc.org

206.388.1264

206.388.1275 TTY/Videophone

FOCUS ON WORKPLACE GIVING

Convenient for you and beneficial to HSDC!

Donating to the Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center is simple and convenient through **Workplace Giving**. If you work for a private company or a public organization, we encourage you to take this opportunity - using the convenience of payroll deduction - to make a gift to HSDC.

Workplace Giving allows you to support HSDC in its mission to promote effective communication community wide, and assist all children, youth and adults in achieving their goals. In addition, by participating in Workplace Giving you help HSDC determine the total amount of pledged dollars expected over the coming year, which assists the Center in budgeting, program planning and additional fundraising activity planning.

A special thank you to those of you who give generously to HSDC through Workplace Giving! We hope you will continue to partner with us in our commitment to provide comprehensive services to ensure that ALL individuals realize their full communication potential. You may contact the Center...

- :: To find out more about Workplace Giving
- :: To invite an HSDC representative to attend an event
- :: To request booth staffing at a benefit or community fair
- :: To request materials or arrange for a tour of HSDC!

We encourage you to forward this edition of Connect News to family, friends or coworkers who you think would be interested in learning more about HSDC. Thanks!

HEARING, SPEECH & DEAFNESS CENTER (HSDC)

Artz Communication Center
1625 19th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122
seattle@hsrc.org
206.323.5770 Voice
206.388.1275 TTY/Videophone

47th Park Place Building
3516 S 47th St, Suite 200
Tacoma, WA 98409
tacoma@hsrc.org
253.475.0782 Voice
253.474.1748 TTY/Videophone

Crown Plaza Building
114 W Magnolia St, Suite 316
Bellingham, WA 98225
bellingham@hsrc.org
360.647.0910 Voice
360.647.8508 TTY/Videophone

add/remove: publications@hsrc.org

hsrc.org

