



# Ventura County SELPA Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program



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### Philosophy

The philosophy of the Ventura County SELPA Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program is that all children have access to the educational program for communication, social and academic development.

Qualified specialists provide assessment and intervention in a variety of communication modes. We recognize that educational decisions may need to be changed over time to reflect the student's emerging strengths, needs, and preferences.

Our process is to partner with family members, recognizing that parents are the primary decision-makers and advocates for their children. Cultural and linguistic diversity are valued and respected.

### Program Overview

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program is designed to address the unique needs of all children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth through their school years. Assessments are conducted by a multi-disciplinary team, and services are specified in the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). Options range from general education classes to specialized classes specifically designed for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Services available for students may include environmental modifications, direct instruction from a credentialed teacher, audiology, speech therapy, occupational therapy, interpretation, and psychological services.

## **Qualifications of Staff**

### **Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Students**

A DHH Teacher has completed graduate coursework and received a credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing which authorizes services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Most have a Masters Degree in special education or deaf education.

### **Sign Language Interpreter**

A Sign Language Interpreter has achieved a required level of competency established by criteria set by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

### **Speech - Language Pathologist**

A Speech-Language Pathologist has completed graduate coursework, and clinical experience, and has complied with state education certification and state licensure standards.

### **Educational Audiologist**

An Educational Audiologist has a graduate degree in audiology, clinical experience, and has complied with state education certification and state licensure standards.

## **Educational Audiology Program**

The Ventura County Office of Education provides comprehensive audiology services for children from birth through their school years. Students must be referred by their district. Testing services include specialized techniques to test young or “difficult to test” children. Testing is conducted at the Hearing Conservation Facility, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo. Appointments can be scheduled upon referral by phoning (805) 437-1380.

Audiologists will also assist the IFSP/IEP team in interpreting audiological results from outside Audiologists.

## **Infant / Toddler Services (0-36 months)**

Infants and Toddlers and their families are supported with education and resources at this important developmental time. Early Intervention services may include home visits, play groups, referrals to community resources, provided by a variety of professionals to help with child development.



### **Preschool Programs (3-4 years old)**

Preschool programs provide developmentally-based activities in a structured setting. Students are exposed to a language-enriched environment focusing on developing individual strengths and building community skills, and are actively encouraged to become independent thinkers while participating in informal and formal activities.

All programs have a strong emphasis on auditory learning to build language skills, with an option of specific programs emphasizing Total Communication or oral skills. The special needs of preschoolers with cochlear implants are addressed and preschool students are integrated with hearing peers whenever possible. Sign Language training may be provided and social interactions with Deaf role models are encouraged. Parent participation is an important component of the program.

### **Elementary School Programs**

Students in elementary school programs receive specialized instruction in developmentally appropriate groupings addressing grade level core curricular standards. Learning occurs in a Natural Language framework emphasizing experiential, hands-on, and active learning activities. Instruction is modified and individualized if needed. Students have opportunities for social interactions with hearing peers and staff, and for inclusion in general education programs with support as needed.

### **Middle School Programs**

Students in middle school programs receive specialized instruction with a DHH Teacher and a range of full or partial day general education opportunities, with interpreter support as needed. Students participate in all general education activities with hearing peers and staff.

### **High School Programs**

The high school programs provide a general education framework with special education services, which may include full or partial day general education classes with interpreter support, or specialized instruction.



## **Transition to Adult Life**

As students prepare to leave the public schools and enter adult life, the IEP team will work with the student and family to identify their dreams and goals for the future. At age 16, this will become part of the IEP process, and your son/daughter is required to be invited. Informal career assessments will be administered, and s/he will identify goals for themselves in the areas of independent living, training and education, and employment. These goals become the basis for continued school services. When your child exits public school (through graduating, "aging out", or voluntarily leaving after age 18) the team will assist the student and their family in accessing needed supports in the adult system through an Exit Summary, which may include referrals to:

- College Programs for Students with Disabilities (assistance with registration, note-takers, interpreters, etc)
- Department of Rehabilitation (vocational training, equipment, adapted devices).
- Social Security (monthly cash benefits for eligible clients)
- Local community supports (GLAD, etc.)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Where are specialized programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing located?

Buttercup Preschool  
30798 Russell Ranch Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91362  
(818)597-2153

University Center (Preschool Program)  
2801 Atlas Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
(805)492-3547 Extension 154

Mountain View Elementary School (Preschool and Elementary Programs)  
2925 Fletcher Ave., Simi Valley, CA 93065  
(805)520-6775

Loma Vista Elementary School (Preschool and Elementary Programs)  
300 Lynn Drive, Ventura, CA 93003  
(805)641-5443

Cabrillo Middle School  
1426 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA 93001  
(805)641-5155 Extension 1134

Rio Mesa High School  
545 Central Avenue, Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805)385-2724

Children's Academy for Listening, Language & Learning (CALL)  
(Preschool - elementary only)  
Thurgood Marshall School  
2900 Thurgood Marshall Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036  
(805)487-3918 x535

### Who Can I Talk To?

Briggs Elementary	805-525-7540
Conejo Valley Unified	805-497-9511
Fillmore Unified	805-524-6000
Hueneme Elementary	805-488-3588
Las Virgenes Unified	818-880-4000
Mesa Union Elementary	805-485-1411
Moorpark Unified	805-378-6300
Mupu Elementary	805-525-6111
Oak Park Unified	818-735-3200
Ocean View Elementary	805-488-4441
Ojai Unified	805-640-4300
Oxnard Elementary	805-385-1501
Oxnard Union High	805-385-2500
Pleasant Valley Elementary	805-482-2763
Rio Elementary	805-485-3111
Santa Clara Elementary	805-525-4573
Santa Paula Unified	805-933-8800
Simi Valley Unified	805-306-4500
Somis Union Elementary	805-386-8258
Ventura Unified	805-641-5000
VCOE	805-383-1900

### NATIONAL RESOURCES

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
3417 Volta Place NW  
Washington DC 20007-2778  
Phone: 202-337-5220  
TTY/TDD: Same  
Web: [www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org)

Auditory-Verbal International, Inc. (AVI)  
2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 402  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-739-0395  
TTY/TDD: same  
Web: [www.auditory-verbal.org](http://www.auditory-verbal.org)

BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc.  
3900 Barrett Drive, Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone: 800-541-4327 and 919-571-4843  
TTY/TDD: Same  
Web: [www.ncbegin.com](http://www.ncbegin.com)

Boys Town National Research Hospital  
14100 Crawford St.  
Boys Town, NE 68010  
Phone: 402-498-1300  
TTY/TTD: 402-498-6543  
Web: [www.boystown.org](http://www.boystown.org)

Central Institute for the Deaf  
825 South Taylor Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63110-1549  
Phone: 314-977-0132 or 877-444-4574 x135  
TTY/TDD: 314-977-0025  
Web: [www.cid.edu](http://www.cid.edu)

### Hands and Voices

A parent driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing unbiased support to families

Phone: (866)422-0422 V/TTY

Web: [www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)

National Information Center for Deafness (NICD), Gallaudet University

800 Florida Avenue NE

Washington, DC 20002-3695

Phone: 202-651-5051

TTY/TDD: 202-651-5052

Web: [www.gallaudet.edu](http://www.gallaudet.edu)

National Center on Deaf-Blindness

354 North Monmouth Avenue

Monmouth, OR 97361

Phone: 800-438-9376

TTY/TDD: 800-854-7013

Web: [www.nationaldb.org](http://www.nationaldb.org)

### STATE and LOCAL RESOURCES

California Department of Education:

State Special Schools and Services Division,

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit

Phone: 916-445-4550

California School for the Deaf, Riverside

3044 Horace Street

Riverside, CA 92506

Phone: 909-782-6502

TTY: 909-782-6501

Fax: 909-782-6509

Web: [www.csdrcde.ca.gov](http://www.csdrcde.ca.gov)

Ventura County SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area)

5100 Adolfo Road

Camarillo, CA 93012

Phone: 805-437-1560

Web: [www.vcselpa.org](http://www.vcselpa.org)

Rainbow Connection Family Resources Center

2401 E. Gonzales Road, Ste. 100, Oxnard 93036

Phone: 800-332-3679 or 805-485-9643

Tri Counties GLAD

(Greater Los Angeles Area Agency on Deafness, Inc.)

702 County Square Drive, Suite 101

Ventura CA 93003

Phone: 805-644-6322

TTY: 805-644-6323

Web: [www.tcglad.org](http://www.tcglad.org)