



## Palmyra School District's Preschool Program for Deaf/Hard of Hearing

*Supervisor of Special Services:* Robert Pupchik

### **Delaware Avenue School**

301 Delaware Avenue, Palmyra, NJ 08065  
Telephone: (856) 786-8900 (ext 6)



The Palmyra School District offers enrollment in a class for 3 and 4 year olds having hearing loss with no other apparent learning challenges. Children should have some accessible aided hearing to consider enrollment. Our mission is to optimize the speech, listening and language development, self esteem and advocacy skills of children with hearing loss to better prepare them for kindergarten when they leave our program. Children who turn 3 years old any day after September 30<sup>th</sup> of a school year can be invited to enroll in our morning session of that school year. The morning session is 8:30-11:00. The morning classroom activities are predominately speech-language-listening activities offered to meet children's specific developmental communication needs. Children with hearing loss who are already 3 years old at the start of the school will be enrolled for a full day, 8:30-2:15. 12:00-2:15, the full day children will be joined by 4 year old children without hearing loss and no apparent learning challenges. The afternoon classroom activities offer a typical preschool curriculum with supports for children with hearing loss. The class schedule follows the September to June, Monday through Friday schedule of the district's elementary school. An extended school year is offered in the summer.

### **OUR COMMUNICATION PHILOSOPHY**

Our communication emphasis is on developing age appropriate speaking and listening skills. The teacher and speech specialist sign fluently to bridge any child's signing skills to improve oral communication. The classroom environment is acoustically treated and has FM sound systems to maximize children's access to auditory information.

### **OUR STAFF**

The teacher for the class has an undergraduate degree in Speech & Language, a Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing Certification, and a Preschool Certification. The speech therapist for the class has certifications for Speech & Language, and Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing. Both have worked with children with various hearing aids, FM systems and cochlear implants and correspond regularly with other professionals and individuals within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. The instructional assistant in the classroom and building staff have been in-serviced about hearing loss and technical support systems. An educational audiologist has been contracted to assist us with the maintenance of our FM systems. A physical and occupational therapist team has been contracted to offer weekly non-prescribed physical development lessons with our teachers as part of our regular physical education curriculum. Minimal prescribed services are also provided.

\*Please see the consulting contact above to get answers to any questions or schedule a visit.