PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This therapy program is specifically designed for preschool children with hearing loss. The program is classroom-based and involves the use of auditory-verbal (A-V) therapy principles to encourage children to become independent communicators and to provide them with the necessary skills to succeed in a mainstream educational environment. Certified and licensed Edinboro University faculty with expertise in the A-V approach deliver the program with assistance from a competent team of graduate student clinicians and undergraduate student volunteers. Though the program is designed for children with hearing loss, typically-developing children and children with speech/language delays will also benefit from this language-focused program with a small class size (8 children maximum).

This 12-week program follows the fall and spring semester clinic calendars (derived from the University academic calendars) and is held twice weekly (Monday and Wednesday) for 3 hours (8:30-11:30 a.m.). Children enrolled in this evidence-based program receive intensive, language-based instruction through classroom activities (e.g. storybook reading, craft, music, etc.) and individual speech therapy sessions (30 minutes per day, 1 hour per week). The program uses an auditory-verbal approach to learning. This approach helps young children with a hearing loss use a combination of hearing and speech to develop spoken language for communication and learning. Unlike a total-communication classroom, this program will not involve using sign language during instruction. Children will be taught to rely on their ears (auditory) and speech (verbal) for communication.

CLIENT OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a language-intensive program for children with hearing loss who are communicating using listening and speaking
2. To provide individual and small-group speech therapy services that focus on developing children's expressive and receptive language skills
3. To support the development of children's social language using peer models within the context of the preschool classroom
4. To support the development of an appreciation for and acceptance of children with different abilities and needs

CURRICULUM

The following is a general outline of the curriculum for the KILT program. Activities will be literacy and language-focused to encourage the development of new vocabulary.

- Morning greeting
- Circle time
  - Review daily schedule
    - Targeted skills: sequencing, vocabulary
  - Calendar
    - Targeted skills: counting, grouping, sequencing, vocabulary
- Book reading activity
  - Targeted skills: prediction, vocabulary
- Individual speech therapy sessions (30 minutes)
  - Targeted skills: Individual treatment goals
- Free play
- Pragmatic language, social skills
- Art activity
  - Targeted skills: vocabulary, social skills, direction following, sequencing
- Language activity
  - Targeted skills: listening (e.g. sound discrimination), sequencing
- Music activity
  - Targeted skills: listening, rhythm, vocabulary
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Parents/caregivers receive lesson plans at the beginning of each week
- Parents/caregivers are invited to observe classroom and individual sessions (two-way mirrors)
- Graduate student clinicians will email parents/caregivers weekly with updates
- Treatment plans are shared with parents/caregivers
- Graduate student clinicians will create weekly carryover activities to share with parents/caregivers.
- Parents/caregivers and children will be invited to a back-to-school event in the fall

FEES

$1,380 per child per semester ($115 per week x 12 weeks) with a $100 deposit due upon admission and the balance paid on the first day of the program (or in 3 installments if using the payment plan).*

COST BREAKDOWN

$40/hour for individual treatment (same rate as Leader Center clients). Children receive 1 hour of individual treatment per week—$40 per week x 12 weeks = $480

$15/hour for program time. Children receive 5 hours per week x $15 = $75 per week x 12 weeks = $900. $900 + $480 = $1,380 per semester; $2,760 for Fall and Spring semesters

*Payment plan is available to all clients at an additional cost of $25 per payment—3 payments of $485. Financial assistance may be available for families that qualify. Contact the Leader Center Director, Cindy Reyes at creyes@edinboro.edu or (814) 732-2164, for more information or to apply for assistance.

TRANSPORTATION

Parents/caregivers must provide transportation.