Maryland School for the Deaf
Family Education and Early Childhood Department (FEECD)

The Family Education and Early Childhood Department (FEECD) serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing children from birth through age five. This department has been recognized by the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program as a major service provider for young Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families.

Services are provided to families with infants and toddlers who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing by certified teachers who have the expertise and communication skills necessary to deal effectively with the linguistic, social-emotional, and academic needs of this population. Services may also be offered to deaf and hard of hearing children who have additional disabilities. It is important to note that all of these services are available at NO COST to any family with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child residing in Maryland.

The FEECD has offices and provides services at both the Frederick and Columbia campuses. Teachers are based at both campuses and leave from either campus on a daily basis throughout the school year to work with families from Oakland to Ocean City. Home visits are provided during the summer months around the state to children with IFSPs or extended IFSPs through a grant provided by the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program.

In addition to providing individual home visits on a regular basis throughout the state, the department sponsors regional parents meetings and weekly parent meetings on both campuses. While the parent meetings occur, the youngest children (ages birth to 24 months) participate in infant/toddler play groups with FEECD staff. Toddler and Pre-school classes are offered at both campuses.

Each child’s progress is monitored through progress reports, teacher/parent observation, and appropriate checklists and evaluations. The Guidelines for Healthy Child Development to Healthy Beginnings and the Creative Curriculum, both approved curricula, serve as the guides for the development of the educational goals for each child. Families whose children are between birth and 36 months of age, have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) which identifies their child’s specific strengths and needs. Children who enter the program after 3 years of age have an
Individualized Educational Program (IEP) as appropriate. Each family receives information on the transition to an IEP when the child reaches the appropriate age.

Families have the option to extend early intervention services through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) beyond age 3 to kindergarten age. As part of this option, by age 3, your family can choose to continue services through an IFSP. Children currently enrolled in a local Infants and Toddlers Program, with a 3rd birthday of February 1, 2010 or later, and who are found eligible for preschool special education and related services will have the opportunity to continue services through an IFSP or move to an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

If you would like more information about the program please visit the school website at: www.msd.edu
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