

JOHN TRACY CLINIC INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SESSIONS

A Unique Opportunity for Families!

Who: Preschool children with hearing loss ages 2 to 5 using spoken language and their families from the U.S and across the world. Families are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for this child-parent educational program offered *free of charge*.

What: A three-week intensive program for parents to attend instructional classes and support groups while their children with hearing loss engage in language learning experiences. Siblings entering grades 1 through 6 can participate in specialized activities and educational experiences. These classes are age-appropriate and the perfect balance of play and learning! Audiology, speech and education are provided daily to assist families in learning about hearing loss, listening, language, development and advocacy. Strategies are individualized to promote the progress of children and empowerment of parents.

When: International Session One, conducted in English June 6-25, 2010
International Session Three, conducted in English July 11-30, 2010

Where: Sessions are held at JTC's lovely California campus, near downtown L.A. There are preschool classrooms with observation booths, indoor/outdoor play equipment, audiology booths, conference rooms, auditoriums and adult classrooms.

Families stay in nearby apartments with complete kitchens. Basic kitchenware is supplied and linen service is available for a small fee. There is a lawn area where families can meet to socialize in the evenings and children can play with their new friends.

Why: Hearing loss can be complex and families must help their young children develop language in their important early years. Families using a spoken language approach learn communication strategies and obtain support to promote their children's auditory/oral skills.

How: Parents first contact JTC's summer coordinator to discuss if the program would meet their needs; then, they complete an application, and submit audiological information. Parents commit to attending sessions: Monday-Thursday 9am to 3pm and Friday 9am to 12pm for the entire three weeks.

All sessions at JTC are free for families. Parents must arrange and pay for their family's transportation to and from California, their food for three weeks and the accommodation fee for university apartment housing.





Preschoolers Play and Learn

Preschoolers with hearing loss participate in an interactive group experience provided in a spoken language environment. On average, each classroom consists of 10-12 children. Small and large group activities and individual daily speech and language lessons are designed for each child's level of development. Additionally, all children receive audiological and educational assessments. There are songs, games, snacks, naps, crafts and fun too!

Parents Learn and Discuss

Parents join about 24 other families in classes to learn how to enhance their children's spoken language. Members of the JTC staff give presentations daily on listening, language and education strategies. Parents participate in the preschool classroom every morning and in individual language sessions. Throughout the day parents can observe their child in activities and lessons with their classroom and speech/ language teachers. In support groups parents discuss their needs and feelings with other parents and a staff counselor.

Siblings Discuss and Play

Brothers and sisters (grades 1 through 6) participate in their own daily program conducted completely in English. They learn about language, hearing loss and amplification. There is a support group to share experiences with the siblings of the other children who are their peers from around the world. Additionally a variety of arts, crafts, sports, games and other day camp activities are planned. The children are recognized for their own abilities, their special relationship with their sibling and the important role they have in their family.

Specialists Support and Discuss

Every weekday has a full schedule of activities, lectures, meetings and observations. Parents work closely with speech-language teachers, audiologists, counselors, psychologists, education experts and other parents. Panels of persons with hearing loss offer personalized perspectives. Audiology services are provided including pediatric audiological testing, counseling about hearing loss and instruction on hearing equipment. Parents learn about hearing loss, spoken language, school strategies, child development and how to still be a family with typical interests.

A Family's View:

"This place has offered us everything...We laughed together, we played together, we cried together. We received the foundation we needed to go on with our children." *Parent, JTC Summer Session 2003*

**For more information about JTC summer sessions, please contact
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