

TRIPOD



- A PRE-SCHOOL
- A DEMONSTRATION ELEMENTARY MAINSTREAM PROGRAM
- A NATIONAL TOLL-FREE HOTLINE

■ A RESOURCE FOR PARENTS WITH HEARING-IMPAIRED CHILDREN

■ A PARENT-INFANT/TODDLER PROGRAM

A HEARING LOSS can have a devastating effect on a young child. Hearing impaired children need very special interaction in order to communicate and learn. Although impaired speech is the most obvious effect of deafness, more serious are the lack of normal language development, social and emotional isolation and an inability to get information about the world.

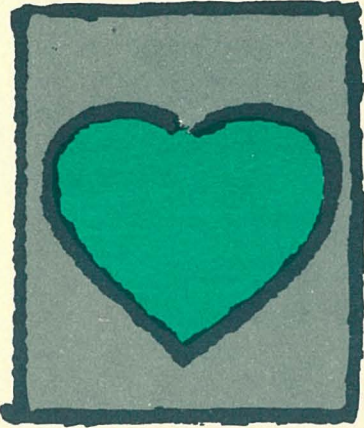
The child sees much, but his parents cannot explain the world to him. The child wonders but cannot ask.



The Parent-Infant/Toddler Program is for children birth to 2½ years old who are hearing-impaired or who are hearing and live with a deaf parent or sibling.

TRIPOD OFFERS:

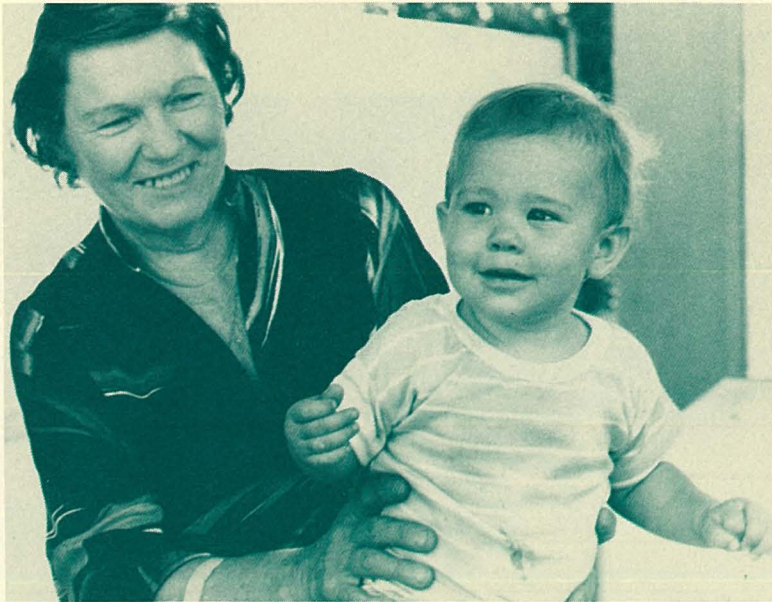
DISCOVERING that your baby is hearing impaired can shatter a parent's confidence. "How can I take care of my baby?" "What does my baby need?" These are questions which are often asked by parents.



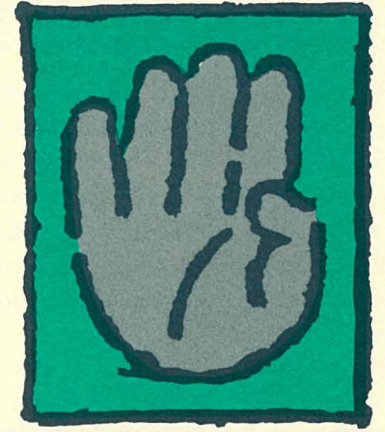
PARENT- INFANT/ TODDLER PROGRAM

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

YOU NEED information. You need to know how hearing impairment affects and does not affect you, your family and your baby. You need to know that there are many ways to communicate. You need to understand and be understood.



The primary goal of the program is to provide information, instruction, counseling and support as soon as parents learn of their baby's hearing loss.



THE PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM offers a rich learning environment for hearing-impaired children. The program combines a total communication philosophy and Montessori methods. This combination supports the child's strength, fosters learning and encourages independence and initiative.

PS #1/TRIPOD Integration program provides small classes, the opportunity for hearing impaired children to be mainstreamed together, team-teaching approach involving regular education and special education teachers, and emphasis on social interaction.

GRAPEVINE is a national/local toll-free hotline which provides information on all aspects of deafness; **1 (800) 352-8888** (V/TDD); in California **1 (800) 346-8888** (V/TDD).

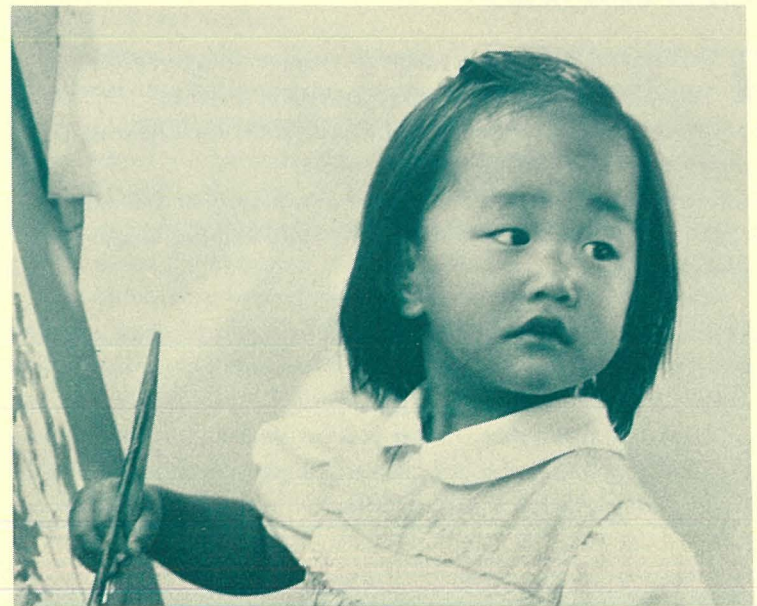
NATIONAL OUTREACH is provided through production of educational videos. "LANGUAGE SAYS IT ALL" describes the impact of deafness on children and their families, and the importance of establishing communication within the home.

PARENT FORUMS offer parents and professionals an opportunity to discuss issues surrounding deaf education. Forum participants include both hearing and hearing-impaired professionals.

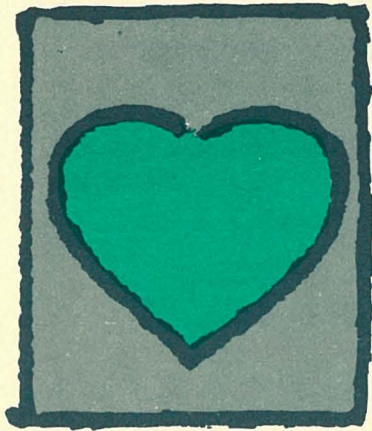
SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES are provided to families who wish to improve their communication skills.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES are available to those interested in working with children, parents, and the GRAPEVINE and school staff.

ENRICHED DAYCARE is offered for hearing-impaired children with working parents.



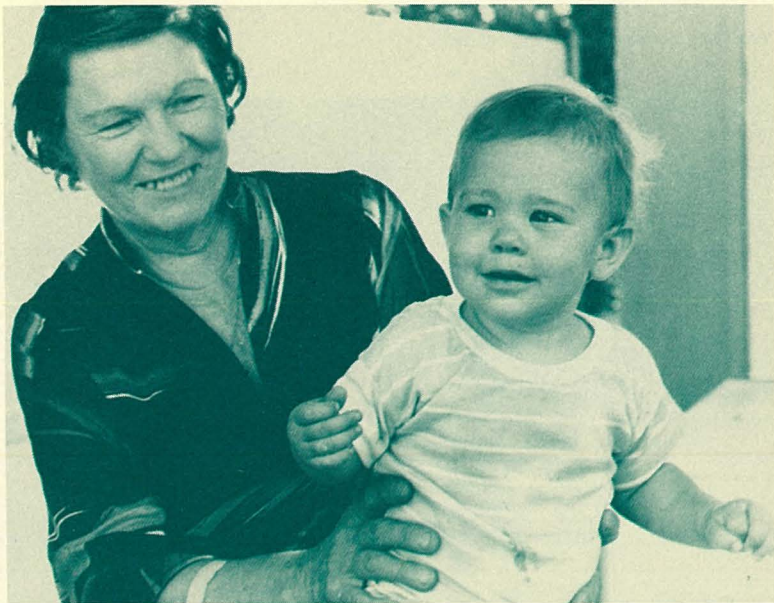
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TRIPOD CAN HELP

THE PRIMARY GOAL of the Parent-Infant/Toddler Program is to provide information, instruction, counseling and support as soon as parents learn of their baby's hearing loss. The intent of the program is to generate a spirit of support, discovery, enjoyment, and understanding in that period of child development (birth to two and a half years old) which is one of the most quickly changing and which carries with it an astonishing number of practical questions.

If you have a hearing impaired baby, you may wonder how you can travel this period lovingly and confidently. TRIPOD is committed to helping families feel strong and capable so they can make informed decisions about their hearing impaired child. TRIPOD helps families obtain knowledge about parenting and deafness in an atmosphere of respect, support, and understanding.

The Parent-Infant/Toddler Program offers groups for children and their parents, sign language classes, and home visits.

GROUPS

PARENT-INFANT/TODDLER GROUPS provide opportunities for children to learn socialization and communication skills. Children and parents participate in a weekly, two hour group experience together. Children begin to feel safe venturing forth to explore their environment because their parents are close by; in turn, parents feel safe sharing experiences and feelings with people who understand.

Parent-Infant/Toddler Groups consist of hearing parents with deaf children, deaf parents with hearing children and deaf parents with deaf children. TRIPOD's staff also consists of both hearing and deaf adults. The program is staffed by an Infant Specialist, whose area of expertise is deaf education, a licensed clinical social worker, an audiologist, a sign language specialist, and a child care worker.

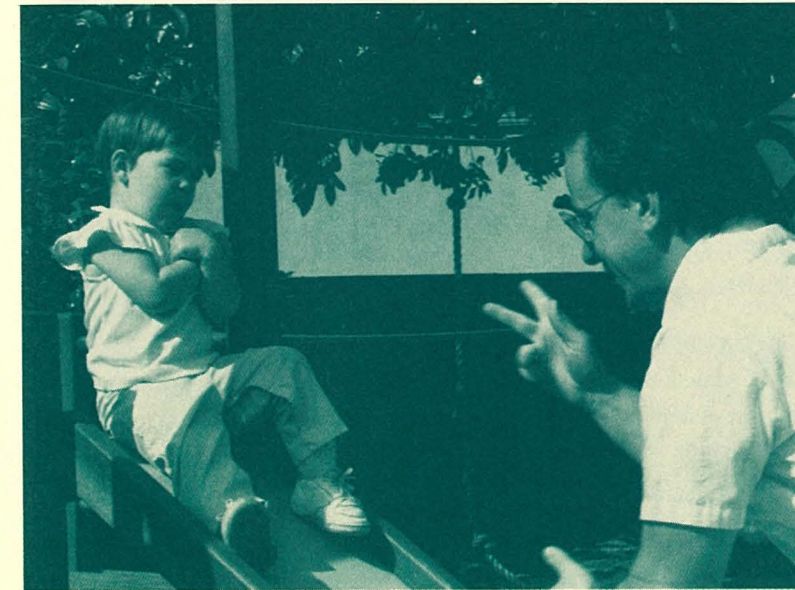
Infants and toddlers (birth through 2½ years of age) have the opportunity to play with toys, paints, play dough, sand, books, puppets, and other activities which serve as building blocks for future school experiences. Activities are modelled by the Infant Specialist and child care worker so that parents begin to learn how to encourage their child's development in the areas of language, motor development, and socialization.

Parents have an opportunity to explore their concerns, find answers, and share experiences. In the relaxed atmosphere of the group, hearing parents and deaf parents discover a common bond: raising their children. During the parent discussion time, topics include sleeping, eating, sibling rivalry, toilet training, and the wide range of developmental issues, including how a hearing impairment may or may not affect a child's development.

HOME VISITS

DURING WEEKLY home visits, the teacher offers simple and concrete suggestions to help parents develop a strong foundation for healthy and comfortable communication with their child, using sign language, English, audition and speech.

Information on technical questions such as finding the best amplification system for the child, maintaining that equipment, and exploring other needs the child may have, are also discussed during these visits.



Children and parents participate together in weekly, 2 hour group experiences.

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

TRIPOD OFFERS sign language classes (taught by hearing impaired adults) for hearing parents in order to:

1. encourage a more rapid communication between hearing parents and their hearing impaired child;
2. give hearing parents access to the community of deaf adults;
3. create a strong foundation for their child's future language development.

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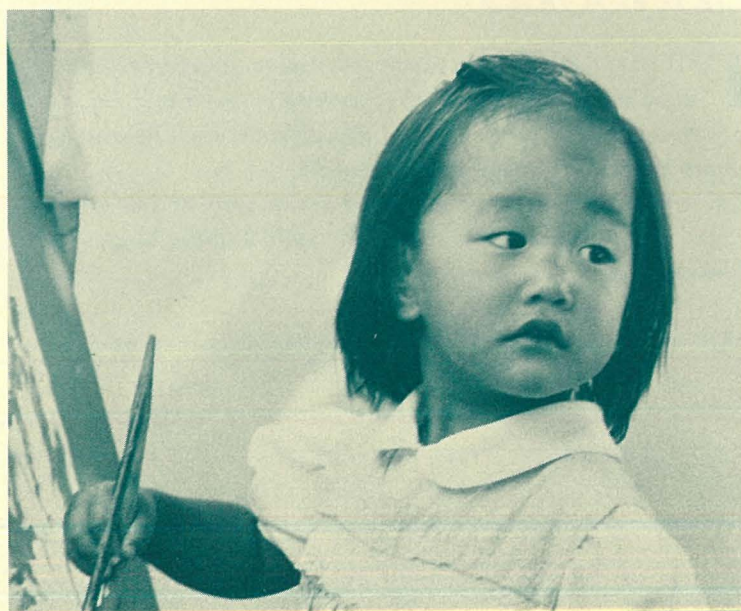
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Design/Roy Gyongy ■ Photos/Mary Lloyd Estrin



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