



1727 West Burbank Boulevard
Burbank, California 91506-1312
(818) 972-2080 (V/TTY)
Fax: (818) 972-2090
www.tripod.org
Triposchool@earthlink.net

MISSION STATEMENT

TRIPOD is committed to developing, demonstrating and disseminating an effective public school program for educating deaf and hard-of-hearing children with their hearing peers.

OUR BEGINNING

TRIPOD was founded in 1982 by the mother of a young deaf boy to meet the complex educational needs of deaf children and their families.

With the support of two well known educators of the deaf from California State University at Northridge and Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and with the help of community leaders and educational professionals, TRIPOD established an educational program where deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing children learn together in co-enrolled classrooms.

In February of 1984, with just four children, the first TRIPOD Montessori Preschool opened its doors in a small house in West Hollywood, California. The TRIPOD Model School Program grew grade by grade along with its first student, and currently serves over 120 children from birth through high school in public school classrooms.

Today, deaf and hard-of-hearing children are co-enrolled with their hearing peers and siblings in a Total Communication setting where language is not a barrier. In this natural environment, hearing children model spoken language for deaf children and all children develop sign language skills together. Classes are team taught by regular and special education teachers.

In June of 1998 seventeen years after TRIPOD's creation, the founding student graduated from Burbank High School along with his friends, both hearing and deaf. The TRIPOD Model School Program is recognized world wide and is replicated in numerous public schools throughout the country.

THE PROGRAM

TRIPOD, a model educational program for deaf children and their families, is a unique public/private partnership with the Foothill and Pasadena Special Education Local Plan Agencies (SELPAs). It is located in four school sites within the Burbank Unified School District in Burbank, California.

THE PARENT-IN-TODDLER PROGRAM

HORACE MANN CHILDREN'S CENTER
Ages Birth to Three

When a child is diagnosed as deaf, hearing parents mourn the child they had...a hearing baby. How can a child unable to communicate with the world know loving lullabies? The family has lost the normal parenting often associated with the child. The parents have the greatest support, and it is crucial that the whole family, not just the child, focuses on reestablishing a connection. Parents and teachers view the deaf child as a full member of the family. The deaf child is introduced to the deaf with an early child development program. Weekly home visits to each family are provided in oral and/or sign language. The program compliments the Home Visitation Program. Parents receive a weekly morning meeting with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. The program meets other families facing similar challenges. Parents are able to interact with other deaf children. They also observe the hearing and deaf children, which aids in the child's development. The challenge is to provide a hearing parent of a deaf child, a hearing parent of a deaf child, are part of the PIT program.

MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

HORACE MANN CHILDREN'S CENTER
Ages Three to Six

The preschool and kindergarten program focuses on the development of the whole child, a child who is confident, which includes developing social and academic skills. In addition, Montessori emphasizes the importance of language development. The program provides aural and visual language development. The child is co-enrolled in the TRIPOD program.

Program provides *free* in-home ASL classes to families new to the TRIPOD program, for 30 weeks during their first year of enrollment in TRIPOD. Families may also invite extended family members and friends to participate in the class, *at no cost*. The instructors are generally deaf students enrolled in California State University, Northridge. In addition to the instruction which they provide, these young deaf people serve as role models for the families.

TRIPOD CAPTIONED FILMS

TRIPOD Captioned Films (TCF) is a non-profit, community outreach project of the TRIPOD Model School Program in Burbank, California. The only source for first run Open Captioned feature films, TCF brings together Hollywood studios, national movie theatres and a captioned film audience of over 28 million deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans.

Box office hits including Titanic and Episode I - The Phantom Menace are among recent films that have been captioned. TCF currently distributes over 50 films each year to over 250 cities nationwide. Studios participating include Buena Vista Distribution, DreamWorks, MGM/UA, New Line Cinema, Paramount Pictures, Sony, 20th Century Fox, Universal, and Warner Brothers.

If you are interested in bringing a captioned film to your community, please call TCF at (818) 972-2080 (voice or TTY). For more information, check our website at www.tripod.org.

OUTREACH:

Each year, TRIPOD welcomes over one hundred visitors from around the world including: parents, teachers of the deaf, Special Education Directors, and State School Superintendents. One of our goals is to make the TRIPOD Educational Model, currently replicated in several school districts across the country, a standard for deaf education nationwide.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The TRIPOD Friends: A support group that assists TRIPOD through volunteer and fundraising activities.

Each spring the TRIPOD honors individuals who have made contributions to education, the com

RESEARCH GOALS

TRIPOD intends to conduct research on deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Educational Model Schools. We will publish research reports which will show academic performance and social skills. TRIPOD also plans to continue research in Educational Model through

OPPORTUNITIES

You can insure a bright future for TRIPOD with your financial support. Contributions are supported by individual donors, foundations and corporations. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information about making a contribution, contact the TRIPOD office at (818) 972-2080.

MILESTONES

- Sept. 27, 1982* TRIPOD is incorporated as a non-profit organization.
- July 1983* The TRIPOD GRAPEVINE, a national toll-free hotline, begins taking calls.
- Feb. 1984* Montessori Preschool Program opens, serving children 2 1/2 to 6 years old.
- Sept. 1986* Mainstream Elementary School Classroom is established at P.S. #1 Elementary School in Santa Monica, California.
- Sept. 1987* Montessori Parent-Infant/Toddler Program begins serving families with children ages birth to 3.
- Aug. 1989* Private/public collaboration begins with the Burbank Unified School District.
- TRIPOD serves as a clearing house to have first run films open captioned and available to deaf audiences nationwide.
- Sept. 1990* The Model Elementary School full-inclusion program expands from one team-teaching classroom to all grade levels at Washington Elementary School (a California Distinguished School Award recipient in 1995).
- Sept. 1991* The model full-inclusion programs expand to 6th grade at John Muir Middle School (a California Distinguished School Award recipient in 1994).
- Sept. 1992* Tulare County Office of Education, in conjunction with Tulare City Schools and Santa Ana Unified School District, implements TRIPOD/BUSD full-inclusion model.
- Oct. 1992* Metrolink (commuter rail service) becomes available for TRIPOD students.
- Feb. 1993* Family Sign Foundation is established to provide all first-year families with free in-home sign language classes.
- April 1993* The opened-captioned film project becomes an official outreach service known as TRIPOD Captioned Films (TCF).
- Sept. 1993* The TRIPOD/BUSD Model program is recognized as a regional program serving Burbank, Glendale, La Canada and Pasadena Unified School Districts under the administration of the Foothill and Pasadena Special Education Local Plan Agencies.
- Sept. 1994* The educational model expands to 9th grade at Burbank High School (a California Distinguished School Award recipient in 1992).
- Sept. 1996* The TRIPOD Grapevine, a national toll-free hotline for information on parenting and educating a deaf child becomes the House Ear Institute LEAD Line through a friendly takeover. From its inception in 1983 to 1996, the Grapevine responded to over 8,000 calls from parents and educators.
- Sept. 1997* The Foothill and Pasadena SELPAs/TRIPOD model program for deaf and hard-of-hearing children now serves children from birth through 12th grade. Several schools in California and across the United States are replicating the TRIPOD educational model program.
- Jan. 1998* TRIPOD Captioned Films and TRIPOD establish a website, www.TRIPOD.org to disseminate information on captioned film screenings and the model program.
- June 1998* TRIPOD's first graduates participate in commencement exercises as members of Burbank High School Class of 1998.
- Feb. 1999* Formation of TRIPOD Captioned Films Advisory Board.