



Our mission is to demonstrate a cost-effective model for education of deaf and hard-of-hearing children that enables them to perform at an academic level consistent with their hearing peers.

How many children are affected by deafness ?

- There are over 3,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the Los Angeles area, and over 60,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing students enrolled in K-12 classes in the U.S.

Why is TRIPOD needed?

- 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents who initially have limited ability to communicate with them.



TRIPOD Educational Director Cindy Murphy works with students on their oral skills.

- The average deaf high school graduate reads only at a fourth to fifth grade level.
- Less than 2% of graduating deaf students qualify for admission into a 4-year college.

What is TRIPOD?

TRIPOD is a private, non-profit educational research organization committed to helping families raise their deaf and hard-of-hearing children in a supportive environment. TRIPOD applies the educational principles of leading deaf educators at the TRIPOD Educational Model School.

What is the TRIPOD Educational Model School?

The TRIPOD Educational Model School, in partnership with the Foothill and Pasadena Special Education Local Plan Agencies (SELPA's), co-enrolls deaf and hard-of-hearing students into classes with hearing students in the Burbank Unified School District. TRIPOD is recognized as a regional program by the California State Department of Education. As a result, deaf and hard-of-hearing students and their siblings attend from more than a dozen school districts in Southern California.

Expanding the TRIPOD

Our goal is to make the Model a guideline for deaf TRIPOD hosts many visitors its Model School. TRIPOD consultants to other schools replicate the TRIPOD model. Educational Model is now in school districts within California and school districts in the states of Nevada, and Texas.

Future Plans

- Fully document the success of hearing children in the TRIPOD Model School through a series of research on academic performance and communication.
- Further strengthen the Model of the program through updates and addition of specially trained staff.
- Acquire state-of-the-art reading and speech skills for hearing children.
- Continue to enhance the Model through ongoing applied research at the TRIPOD Educational Model School.

At TRIPOD, it's often tough to tell the hearing kids without a scorecard.



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How is TRIPOD different?

• Co-enrollment of deaf students with their hearing peers

Students are taught by a deaf education teacher and a hearing teacher working as a team. Deaf students acquire information from a hearing teacher without having to prefer. This also provides hearing students with a strong peer group support among their deaf peers.

• Inclusion of parents and siblings

TRIPOD's Family Sign Program provides instruction in Sign Language to families. This program is implemented in order to bridge the communication gap that often exists with young children. It provides several years of language growth and development.

At TRIPOD, siblings are enrolled in the same schools, which allows hearing students to communicate with their deaf siblings in a natural school setting.

TRIPOD S

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Math



1995 Stanford Achievement Test scores were averaged and normalized to National General Median equivalent scores.

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Students are taught by a deaf education teacher and a hearing teacher working as a team. Deaf students acquire information from their hearing teacher without having to be a hearing peer. This also provides hearing students with a strong peer group support among their deaf classmates.

• Inclusion of parents and siblings

TRIPOD's Family Sign Program provides instruction in Sign Language to families. This program is implemented in order to bridge the communication gap that often exists with young children in the first five years of language growth.

At TRIPOD, siblings are enrolled in the same schools, which allows hearing students to communicate with their deaf siblings in a natural school setting.

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1995 Stanford Achievement Test scores were averaged and normalized to National General Median equal

TRIPOD EDUCATIONAL MODEL SCHOOL

- **The Montessori Parent-Infant/Toddler Program** serves children from the time they are identified with a hearing loss through age three. Instruction is provided in oral and/or sign language methodologies during weekly home visits. Weekly play groups at TRIPOD and Parent Support Group meetings further encourage communication development.

- **The Montessori Pre-School/Kindergarten Program** focuses on education of the whole child, including social skills as well as academics. It stresses the importance of language development by emphasizing both aural/oral skills and visual language.

- **The Elementary Program** is aligned with the Burbank Unified School District where hearing, deaf, and hard-of-hearing students are co-enrolled. Students are taught by both a general education teacher and a special education teacher working as a team. This allows the deaf and hard-of-hearing students to acquire information directly from a teacher without having to go through an interpreter. It also allows for more individualized and small group work, and provides the deaf and hard-of-hearing students with a sense of belonging and peer group support among their hearing classmates.

- **The Middle School and High School Programs** continue the co-enrollment philosophy which enhances social and emotional growth, as well as academic growth, due to continued interaction with hearing peers.

TRIPOD TOUR

"We're thrilled to have our children. To be fully integrated with hearing peers made the difference. Hearing and social interaction have really helped."

Parent

"It's neat to know different things, to know how to sign and to be able to do things to my deaf friend that I couldn't do before...like how to swim and how to play tag."

Student, Washington

"In this program, I can see the difference in the children. With both hearing and deaf teacher role models, the children develop and integrate better than it's not possible when there are only hearing teachers."

"I was impressed with the quality of the interactions between hearing and deaf students...and that's one of the things that a good grasp of sign language gives children - the spontaneity and feelings."

Kathryn
Gallaudet University

TRIPOD

2901 North Keystone Street
Burbank, CA 91504-1620
Phone 818/972-2080 V/TDD
Fax 818/972-2090

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Above donations are cumulative.

TRIPOD thanks everyone who has kindly given over the years.

TRIPOD's first student, Jacob Shamberg, shown here working with Preschool students Katherine Lees and Alfredo Aguilar, exemplifies the spirit of TRIPOD.

