



PROFILE

Over 90% of deaf and hard-of-hearing children are born to hearing families who initially are unable to communicate with their child. TRIPOD, a non-profit organization headquartered in Burbank, California, was established in 1982 to assist these families. TRIPOD provides deaf and hard-of-hearing children learning opportunities in a fully integrated school setting, as well as information and emotional support for their families.

As soon as parents learn of their baby's hearing loss, the *Montessori Parent-Infant/Toddler Program* can open avenues of communication in the spirit of support, discovery and understanding of deafness so that parenting can resume. A rich learning environment, encouraging self-reliance and active inquiry is offered in the *Montessori Preschool/Kindergarten Program*.

From first through eighth grade, TRIPOD students and their hearing peers learn side by side; teachers and students communicate freely, demonstrating that deafness need not be a barrier. In the *Integrated Elementary and Middle School Program* — a unique partnership with the Burbank Unified School District — TRIPOD students are achieving at academic levels above the national norms for deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

TRIPOD's national toll-free hotline, *The GRAPEVINE*, provides up-to-date information on all aspects of childhood deafness, enabling parents and professionals to make informed decisions. Since operations began, in the Fall of 1983, TRIPOD has received national and international recognition from parents, professionals and the deaf community.

Board of Directors

Megan Williams
President

Mary Lloyd Estrin
Vice-President

Harry Eversole
Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Bove
Neil Breton
Gary N. Clark
Cindy Costner
Elizabeth Freeman

Meg Kasdan
Lenore Kayne
Herb Larson

Barbara Montan
Patrica Mykoski
Kathy Ruccione

Barry Sacks
Eric Shapiro
Joe Shapiro

Trudy Sibley
Charles Sloane
S. Craig Tompkins

Rodrica Walker
Mary Ellen Zemeckis

Carl J. Kirchner
Executive Director