

SCHOOL OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION

Tripod
955 North Alfred Street
Los Angeles, California 90069
(213) 656-4904
Grapvine Hotlines:
1-800-352-8888 (V/TDD)
1-800-346-8888 (V/TDD CA ONLY)

April 9, 1984
One visited
Tour: Yes, Tour Guide
Administrator Assisstance
Ms. Megan Hall

Section One: School Information

History:

Tripod started its preschool Februray 1984. The hotline began
May 1983. Tripod is an information service on ^{deafness} ~~deafness~~ and refer ser-
vice for parents out of the local area and parents in the local com-
munity. It is also where parents will learn how to help their child-
ren. It is also where the parents can send their children to school.

Tripod orginated 10 years ago. The word Tripod means Towards Re-
habilitation Involvement of Deaf Parents. The meaning of Tripod is
not use any more. This is how the preschool recieved its named Tri-
pod.

Tripod is organize by a couple named Megan Williams and Micheal
Shamberg who has a son named Jacob. Jacob during this period of time
was an eight month old baby who did not respond to his mother's clap-
ping sounds. " She consulted the pediatrician. He said wait. Three
months later agreed to testing. The diagnosis: deaf."

The parents seeks professional help by making " 200 telephones calls to agencies and experts all over the United States, seeking guidance in wading through the sea of seemingly disparate and fragmented information. Because there is no " Dr. Spock" for deaf parenting, she sought out other parents with deaf children, deaf role models and adults who had grown up in environment with auditory deprivations." They were preferred to Carl Kirchner an associate professor of special education at Cal State Northridge and the son of a deaf mother and father.

This made up the mind of Jacob's mother to open a preschool for her son and other children like him. Jacob's mother and father background involves the television station and the movie industry. Mother Megan Williams is a "co-founder of TVTV, a documentary video production company that has produce numerous programs for PBS. Her husband who is Micheal Shamberg is a co-producer of PBS films with KCET as well as producer of "The Big Chill," in production at Columbia Pictures." These individuals have already touch so many lives without the public knowing who they are directly. They have a different challenge to touch peoples lives in a different way through the private preshool called Tripod.

Philosophy:

The preschool philosophy is " involving the students in hearing residual speech, lipreading, sing language, mine gwestre-all this

really enhance the child's cognitive process and establishes a basis for English skills as he grows."

Population Served:

Tripod served any one who needs help. If they can not help they will referred them to some one else. They served the United States.

Referral Sources:

Glad organization standing for the Greater Los Angeles Council of Deafness, Inc. Parents can recommend students.

Admission Criteria and Evaluation Procedures:

The procedures for the students to become apart of Tripod is that the parents and students will come in person and talk to the staff and the directors. They place the child or children in the environment and see how the children interacts with the other children. They are flexible occording to the needs of the child and the parents. They can be accepted only if the child or children needs this type of help. They can only place this chid or children in this environment if the parents are happy with the school and its philosophy. The children must meet the age limit of the preschool which is $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 years of age.

Programs Offered:

Tripod offeres early childhood, elementary, and adolescents serves. Not included is residential programs, teacher training and graduated traning and tutoring servies. I will place a copy of each program explaining the workshop and parents involvement.

Staffing:

The only thing ~~about~~ ^{ed medical} staffing ~~that~~ these individuals are not at the school. They are at their bus~~ness~~. The only full time person who is staff~~ed~~ at the preschool is the audiologist. They can refere the parents to different specialist that are ^{connected} ~~corrected~~ to the school. They can call for help 24 hours a day if need~~ed~~ ^{ed} in an emergency or for information.

The teachers and advisory board are professional who direct~~s~~ the preschool and the teachers either have ^{SP} masters degrees or working on their doctoral degrees ^{SP}. I will place in the list of professional and their status with the preschool.

Enrollment:

Tripod is licensed to serve 14 children at any school session.

The current enrollment is six children.

Professional Affiliations:

Tripod is not affiliated with any college or university. No vendors programs.

The L.A. Experience

One Week Workshops for Families of Hearing Impaired Children

Summer is fast approaching and plans for your child's summer school program will need to be made soon. TRIPOD will offer 2 unique programs - a student experience and a family experience.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE - July 9-27th. A multifaceted program in Language Arts designed to capitalize on the 1984 Summer Olympic Festivities.

	<u>AGES</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Early Childhood	2 1/2-7 yrs. old	People
Elementary	8-12 yrs. old	Sports
Adolescent	13-18 yrs. old	Cultural Heritages

FAMILY EXPERIENCE - A one week workshop for families of hearing-impaired children organized by specific age groups:

- Parent/Infant 0-2 1/2 yrs. old
- Pre-school/Primary 2 1/2-7 yrs. old
- Elementary/Middle School 8-12 yrs. old
- Adolescents 13-19 yrs. old

Parents have the option of attending the session of their choice:
Session I - August 19-25th
Session II - August 26-September 1st.

THE PARENTS' EXPERIENCE - Evening workshop program on deafness and parenting, featuring guest lecturers. Evening classes in communication skills, based on Total Communication philosophy. Optional participation in children's daytime program.

THE HEARING-IMPAIRED - CHILD'S EXPERIENCE - Day program, Monday through Friday, in intensive, age-appropriate language arts curriculum. Program designed and taught by teams of experienced, creative, and highly qualified teachers of the deaf.

THE SIBLING'S - EXPERIENCE - Evening workshop program on deafness and sibling relationships. Evening classes in communications skills featuring games and other enjoyable learning strategies.


As you can see, TRIPOD has created a summer program to help you "reach for the gold" in the field of deafness. For specific information on The Student Experience and/or The Family Experience just contact us at TRIPOD and information will be sent.

DO SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH US.

Carl Kirchner, President




SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES



FAMILY CLASS

Monday Evenings 7:30 to 8:30pm
Feb. 13 through June 11, 1984


This class is designed to serve the immediate and extended families of hearing-impaired children & adults.



"SIGN HI TO A FRIEND"

Saturday Mornings 10:30 to 11:30am
February 11 through May 28, 1984

This class is for hearing children between the ages of 4 and 12.



"HOLLYWOOD SIGN"

Wednesday Evenings 7:30 to 8:30pm
February 8 through May 23, 1984

This class is for adults interested in learning sign language. Our class will provide you with a basic knowledge of receptive & expressive sign language.

COST:

\$30/family or individual - any class
Each class consists of 15 weekly sessions

LOCATION:

TRIPOD 955 N. Alfred Street, L.A.
1 blk. east of La Cienga Blvd. &
1 blk. south of Santa Monica Blvd.

FOR INFORMATION:

Call 656-4904 (V/TDD)

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Rochester, NY

Brenda Sutcliffe
Communication Services Office
Royal National Institute for the Deaf
London, England

Finances:

Tripod is a non-profit school. They receive contributions from companies as gifts of art materials, books and other supplies for the school. Volunteers also give their services to Tripod. The contributions are tax-deductible. It is a long list of helping people in which I will place ^{a duplicated in} ~~in the~~ a sheet to show who is giving what.

This is one of the ways Tripod is receiving help. The private preschool charges tuition of \$50.00 per month and a non-refundable of \$25.00 registration fee. A flat fee for Day Care services which is \$5.00 only if the child or children is not enrolled in the preschool. The day care fee is separate ^{from} ~~from~~ the school tuition.

Hours and Services:

The day care services hours are 7:30 to 8:30 and from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Family Class are on Monday evenings at 7:30 to 8:30. The "Sign Hi To A Friend" are on Saturday mornings at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The "Hollywood Sign" are Wednesday evenings at 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The fee is \$30/ family or individual-any class consisting of 15 weekly sessions a piece.

Transportation:

The parents will bring the children to school. But their future goals are to raise money for a school bus or work out some type of arrangement with a company for a bus service.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following people for their generous contributions to TRIPOD:

JULIAN & NATALEE ARONSON
DARLENE BECCO
ELEANORE BOURKE
PETER & MARY BUFFETT
DONA CANDELA
PENELOPE COOPER
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TRIPOD is a non-profit tax-exempt corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible. Your support enables us to continue in our efforts to serve hearing-impaired individuals and their families.

This fall TRIPOD renovated a 3-bedroom house for our pre-school and offices. We now have a comfortable, non-institutional center for families and hearing-impaired children.

We sincerely thank the following companies that demonstrated their commitment to the community through their gifts:

AARON BROTHERS - gift certificate
ADEPT - employee training assistance
AMERITONE PAINT CO. - paint
CAL TURF - sod
GENERAL ENERGY - heating/air conditioning unit & installation
HOUSE EAR INSTITUTE - Parent-to-Parent videotapes
INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION - office equipment
IRVINE RANCH FARMERS MARKET - open house refreshments
KROWN RESEARCH - TDD
LAST GASP PUBLISHERS - children's books
LEVOLOR LORENTZEN - mini-blinds
MA MAISON - open house refreshments
MODERN SIGNS PRESS - library & school materials
POLAROID CORPORATION - cameras
RON REZEK LIGHTING - lighting fixture
SPECIALIZED SYSTEMS, INC. - TDD
AMERICAN COMMUNICATION CORP. - TDD

TRIPOD welcomes donations of any toys or books for children that your family has outgrown.

And last but not least, we extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers:

FRIEDA BLOCK - bookkeeping
SAM BLOCK - library
JANICE HOTTLE - newsletter
ED INGHAM - public relations/facility improvements
ANNETTE MENDEZ - office/parent outreach
BESSTIE ROME - library/office

Section 2: Your Reactions

1. Why did you select these schools?

I selected the John Tracy Clinic because they teach deaf children and adults. I have always been interested in the John Tracy Clinic and this gave me the opportunity to visit the campus and Tripod because I wanted to observe a new school. I was interested how they taught pre-school children to do sign language.

2. What was most outstanding about each school?

The most outstanding elements are the resident living program along with the student training program which is very impressive at the John Tracy Clinic. Tripod gives a different outlook to the deaf children. Tripod teaches the verbal and the sign language to their students.

3. What was most objectionable out of each one?

The John Tracy Clinic should teach sign language along with verbal. Tripod should have student teacher program. I realized since it is a new school it is hard to have everything. Maybe in the future they can get involved with one or two colleges or universities to help the future teachers to learn different approaches in teaching deaf students.

4. Evaluate in depth school's educational programs. Compare, contrast them. How might they be improved?

Both schools have parent involvement and family involvement. A well established school is very difficult to compare with a new comer. It will take time for a new school to build and expand like the Tracy Clinic. Tripod isn't equip like the Tracy Clinic. I am not saying that they do not have a good staff and teaching members, what I am saying they need more help to reach their future goals.

5. Evaluate the site-building, classrooms, playyard- in terms of spaciousness, safety, equipment, maintenance, esthetics, cleanliness.

Both schools have the above qualifications. The only difference between John Tracy Clinic and Tripod is one is a campus and the other is a house turned into a preschool. The thank you sheet for Tripod will explain how the house was turned into a school. The John Tracy Clinic what I could see has green grass for the play area and not a lot of equipment for the children to play on. I looked at this from an observation window looking through the sliding glass doors of the classroom. Tripod backyard has no equipment to play on. They had only flowers and green grass with a tree. The area of the school is fenced in for safety for the children.

6. Evaluate the capability of the instructors and ancillary personnel (where/ if possible).

No comment.

7. Would you enroll a child/sib of yours at either of these schools? Why or Why not?

I would enroll my child or children in both schools. I really like both schools. It is difficult to say because I will have to take the father's point of view into consideration along with my point of view and weigh the good points and bad points then decide what to do. At this point it is difficult to make a wise conclusion without extensive research and without growth and development period of the school.

8. Evaluate the amount and type of parental involvement. In what ways might it be improved?

I find nothing negative. ^{it is hard} To improve Tripod because it is a new comer. The John Tracy Clinic appears to have the right attitude about parents involvement on a everyday basis. No improvements in my opinion are needed at this time.

9. Feel free to include an agenda section for any additional comments.

I feel that Tripod should have a follow up to my report over the next five years. This follow up can help. I suggest university involvement through student teachers or aids to gain deeper insight into the superior value of this program. I feel that Tripod should be compared with the other new preschools for deaf children who started out at the same time. I tried to interview other new deaf programs but a few will talk to you about the program. They did not give enough information on their schools. Some individuals stated that the head directors were not in so they could not give an appointment.

I will suggest contracting The Greater Los Angeles Council of Deafness for more information on schools and their programs in which they offer for adults and children. These people are very helpful in finding schools for individuals to observe and finding schools for parents and centers.

The John Tracy Clinic and Tripod will work with the students for the school evaluation and observation.