



# Jefferson Joint School District 251

## Early Childhood Center Peer Model Program

**All Peer Model Applications will be reviewed and approved the week of May 23rd. You will be notified of your child's acceptance or non-acceptance during that week. If applications are received after May 23<sup>rd</sup> they will be reviewed and parent will be notified.**

The Early Childhood Center (ECC) is a designed to provide learning opportunities for students with disabilities by focusing on age-appropriate functional skills such as positive social-emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, and use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

The Peer Model Program at the ECC encourages typically developing children to act as peer models for the students with disabilities by modeling age-appropriate skills. The program is beneficial to all students to learn in a positive, structured, language rich environment.

Students in the 3-year-old session will attend on either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday from 9:30-11:45 or 12:30-2:45.\* Students in the 4-year-old sessions will attend Monday through Thursday from 9:30-11:45 or 12:30-2:45.\*

### **Peer Model Acceptance Criteria:**

Peer models must exhibit the following skills:

- **Positive Social-Emotional Skills:** relating to adults and children, following rules, concepts such as expressing emotions and feelings, expectations and social interactions and social play, etc.
- **Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy):** thinking, reasoning, problem solving, counting, letter recognition, clear and understandable speech, etc.
- **Use of Appropriate Behaviors to meet their needs:** able to feed, dress and toilet independently, follow routines, etc.
  - Should a peer model not exhibit these skills after having been accepted, they may be dismissed from the program. If peer model behaviors are such that they cause threat to other students or staff, it may be a cause for *immediate* dismissal.

Peer models must meet the following criteria:

- Be 3 years old by September 1st of the school year in which they will attend the 3-year-old session or be 4 years old by September 1st of the school year in which they will attend the 4-year-old session.
- Children who are age 5 by September 1<sup>st</sup> of that school year are not eligible to attend the Early Childhood Center program and are encouraged to enroll in kindergarten.
- Have regular attendance.

- Provide transportation to and from the program. Transportation is not provided by the school district and is the parent/guardian responsibility.

### **Peer Model Information:**

#### Availability:

- There are typically 2-4 peer models per session.
- Placement is not guaranteed and is not guaranteed from one year to the next.
- Peers may participate in one session a year for a maximum of two years.

#### Fees:

Fees are payable by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month starting September 1 until May 1. Monthly tuition is a fixed rate averaged over the Early Childhood Center school calendar year. Payment of fees must be timely. If fees are not paid within 10 days of the due date, the child will be dismissed from the program. Monthly tuition is nonrefundable regardless of the peer models attendance.

- 3-year-old session fees are \$65.00 a month for a total of \$585 for the school year.
- 4-year-old session fees are \$130.00 a month for a total of \$1170 for the school year.
- Employees who work for the school district daily, will pay a reduced rate. If employment with the school district changes during the school year, you will be required to pay the full monthly rate.

#### Placement:

Priority placement will be determined by the following criteria:

- A child whose parent/guardian is employed by Jefferson School District and is scheduled daily throughout the school year.
- A community member child who resides in the Jefferson School District boundary.

Should the number of applicants exceed the number of available positions, placement will be determined by lottery and will follow the above priority placement criteria.

#### Enrollment:

If selected, the child must enroll in Jefferson School District and provide the following documentation prior to the first day of attendance.

- Birth Certificate or Proof of Birth
- Immunization Records
- Evidence of Residency Within the District Proof of Residence Address Verification (Utility Bill, Rental or Purchase Agreement).

Click [HERE](#) to access the application.

\* Times/Days are subject to change.