



**The Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch
Home Visiting Outreach Program
and
the Rumball EarlyON Child and Family Centre
Invite You to Attend:**

**PALS
PLAY AND LEARNING SESSIONS**

What is PALS?: PALS is a series of mini workshops for parents of Deaf or Hard of Hearing children from birth to age 6. The workshops are designed to provide parents with opportunities to network with each other and be exposed to a variety of guest speakers who will provide information about supporting your Deaf or Hard of Hearing child.

Can I Bring My Child?: Deaf or Hard of Hearing children are welcome to come and play in the Family Resource Centre while their parents attend the workshop. Staff from the Family Resource Centre and home visiting teachers will supervise your children in the playroom. Spoken English and ASL (American Sign Language) will be acknowledged, valued and respected in the playroom. This is an opportunity for Deaf or Hard of Hearing children to come together and simply have fun through play.

Where?: The Manor at the Rumball EarlyON Child and Family Centre, 2395 Bayview Ave, Toronto, ON M2L 1A2

Session Dates: Oct 5th, Nov 9th, Dec 7th, March 8th, Apr 5th, May 10th, June 7th

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Please have your child settled in the Family Resource Centre by 10:15 a.m.)

What to Bring: Nutritious nut free snack. Children do not need to be toilet trained to attend. If your child needs to have his/her diaper changed, a teacher will come and get you to do so.

For Questions or Concerns Contact: Janet Martino, Co-ordinator Central Home Visiting Program janet.martino@ontario.ca

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**Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch
Home Visiting Outreach Program**

Upcoming Topics at



10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

October 5th – Language Acquisition

Janet Martino and Vida Peric-Warwick, Educational Coordinators, Home Visiting Program

This workshop will provide information to know how children learn language and the importance of language acquisition. Different strategies and ideas will be shared in how you can help achieve your child's language milestones, whether it's in English, ASL or your family's native language.

November 9th – Transition to School

Robyn Sandford, Educational Consultant - PDSB

This workshop will provide information about what you need to know concerning your child's transition to kindergarten. Topics of discussion will be the I.E.P. (Individual Education Plan), I.P.R.C. (Individual Placement Review Committee) and the Role of the Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf.

December 7th – Unilateral Hearing Level

Theresa Hugill, Educational Consultant – PDSB

This workshop will focus on children who have a unilateral hearing level and help parents understand the effects of hearing in one ear. Topics will include how to adjust the environment so that the child receives maximum hearing input in the better ear and offer strategies to advocate for themselves if the information presented to them is not understandable.

March 8th – Parent Panel with Multicultural Lunch

Janet Martino and Vida Peric-Warwick, Educational Coordinators, Home Visiting Program

Parents will have the opportunity to share their experiences with their parents on the joys and challenges of raising Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Participants will have opportunities to ask questions. Lunch will be followed after the Parent Panel. Bring your favourite dish to share. No nuts please.

Toronto PALS

April 5th – Math Development

Cathy Ruggirello, Educational Consultant – PDSB

This workshop will focus on the importance of Math Development in the Early Years. Math is one of the most basic skills we expect our children to master, Research into the importance of early math will be emphasized. Strategies will be shown on how you can maximize and help children build their math skills through educational toys and activities.

May 10th – Let's Communicate!

Jan Casali, Speech Language Pathologist

Age appropriate speech and spoken language milestones will be discussed. Effective strategies and techniques to enhance your child's communication will be presented.

June 7th – How to Advocate for Your Deaf Child

Donald Prong, Executive Director, Ontario Association of the Deaf

Advocacy can be appropriately viewed as assisting children and youth in finding their own power with-in and teaching them to use it effectively. Strategies will be shared on how to advocate for your child when it comes to language rights, access to services, education and more! Parents will have the opportunity to engage in shared collaboration or address any concerns they may have with regards to their child as a group.



reach every student

