



Parent Advisor-Missouri School for the Deaf

Job Description: Parent Advisors are trained at the Missouri School for the Deaf to work with families of children from birth through 5 who are deaf or hard of hearing. They provide ideas for strategies to help children develop in the areas of language acquisition, communication, and social /emotional skills. They offer support and information to the families, modeling different approaches that may be used in working with the child. Parent Advisors provide weekly home visits to these families, using a curriculum-based and family centered program. We use the SKI-HI curriculum, which is the same curriculum used by 44 other states for their early intervention programs.

Training: A six-day training is required for all potential Parent Advisors. The training is held once a year. Topics in the curriculum cover a full range of issues specific to deaf and hard of hearing children, including: being deaf and communication issues and approaches, early auditory learning, literacy, visual language, spoken language through audition, cochlear implants, hearing aids, birth-12 months, play and concept development and more.

Qualifications: A parent advisor should have a 4-year degree in deaf education or a related field, such as speech pathology, or audiology. Those with degrees in other fields such as early childhood or special education would be considered if they had some experience with deafness, such as being the child of a deaf adult, having a deaf sibling or child, are a certified interpreter for the deaf, have experience working with deaf children, or are deaf themselves.

Compensation: Our Parent Advisors are paid \$37.00/hour, plus travel time of \$15.00/hour, and the current state rate for mileage.

General Information: After completing the six-day training, Parent Advisors are added to our list of qualified PA's. When a family in their region requests services, (usually within a 50 mile radius), the Parent Advisor is contacted to see if they would be a good match for the family. Once a match is made, the Parent Advisor may begin making home visits. The Parent Advisor is contracted by the Missouri School for the Deaf to perform these services. Our parent advisors typically serve between 1-3 families, depending on the number of children identified in their region. They may serve no more than 6 families. Our outreach program is advertised through First Steps, Local Education Agencies, Hospitals, Parents as Teachers, etc. Sometimes, however, it is several months before a PA is given a family to work with. This depends on the number of referrals to our program and the area of the state from which we receive the referrals.

“MSD – First Choice, Not Last Resort”

Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the Conference of Educational Administrators Serving the Deaf, Inc.

Administered by the Missouri State Board of Education