



## SUMMIT SPEECH SCHOOL

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### **Summit Speech School Preschool Service Plans for the 2020-2021 School Year**

It is the mission of Summit Speech School to empower children with hearing loss to become effective communicators using Listening and Spoken Language. We strive to provide best practices in Listening and Spoken Language within best practices in Audiology and Early Childhood programming. In order to continue to provide predictability and structure for our students, families, and staff, Summit Speech School has designed a hybrid plan for September. This plan was developed by our reopening planning committee after surveying staff members and parents and acquiring feedback from both groups during a series of staff and parent virtual meetings.

Our plan for September will follow the guidelines set forth in the Governor's "Restart and Recovery plan for Education". The Summit Speech School will offer a hybrid program for September with all therapies and Teacher of the Deaf services delivered in the mornings. In person instruction will be held from 8:30-12:15 Monday through Friday. Pre-academic skills sessions will be held in person during morning hours as well as remotely in the afternoons. This schedule will allow our students a daily routine while also ensuring that rooms are cleaned and prepped for the following day. In person instruction will be provided by our Teachers of the Deaf and students will be kept in small self-contained classrooms. A speech therapist is assigned to each class and all therapies, including OT and PT, will be delivered during these hours unless otherwise specified.

Summit Speech School will also provide a daily hour of remote pre-academic instruction, which will be provided in the afternoon by one of our preschool teachers. This remote instruction will follow the HighScope curriculum in the areas of math, literacy, science and social studies, and consist of weekly packets, videos and live online instruction.

Full remote instruction will be offered to any student who is unable to attend our in-person sessions due to high risk concerns, transportation issues or quarantine restrictions. This plan has been updated and approved by our Board of Trustees on July 27th, 2020. It has been reviewed by our local county health department, School Physician and will be submitted to the County Superintendent's office on or before July 31, 2020. This plan will take effect on September 2, 2020, and is subject to change as guidance from the DOE and DOH dictate.

#### **Pandemic Response Team**

The Summit Speech School has created a diverse team to oversee our school's implementation of this reopening plan. This team includes but is not limited to the following: school principal, nurse, speech pathologist, classroom teacher, executive director, facilities manager, business manager, office manager, school secretary, and parents. All stakeholders have had the opportunity to review this plan and provide input to the team.

### Delivery of In Person and Remote Instruction

Summit Speech School's preschool currently consists of three self-contained classrooms taught by Teachers of the Deaf, a Discovery room taught by a special education preschool teacher and several teacher assistants as well as a school nurse. Our preschool also has three speech therapists assigned to each of the three classrooms as well as an OT and PT provider. In September, students will stay in their self-contained classrooms throughout the morning with staff assigned to that class. All supplies and equipment will be limited to one group of children at a time and cleaned and disinfected between use. Individual supplies that are clearly labeled with each student's name will be given to each student to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the greatest extent possible. All classes will avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids as much as possible. Any learning aids or toys that are shared will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between use. Each child's belongings will be separated from others' and placed in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.

Our daily in-person schedule will allow Teacher of the Deaf services to be provided throughout the morning. Both speech therapists and teachers of the deaf will be present for snack and lunch as these are prime opportunities to work on listening and spoken language skills.

The following schedule shows how a typical morning might run.

<b>Activity: Type of Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Time Expectancy</b>
Listening checks, device checks, DM set up, bathroom	Teacher of the Deaf/ Paras	30 minutes 8:30-9:00
Activity 2: Speech Language, Auditory development-small groups	Speech Language Pathologist-push in or pull out, Teacher of the Deaf, Paras	1 hour 9:00-10:00
Activity 3: Snack and language groups-story time	Speech Language Pathologist, Teacher of the Deaf	30 minutes 10:00-10:30
Recess outside (one class only) or in classroom	Teacher of the Deaf and Paraprofessionals. SLPs pull out	30 minutes 10:30-11:00
Activity 4: Speech Language, Auditory development-small groups	Speech Language Pathologist-push in or pull out, Teacher of the Deaf, Paras	30 minutes 11:00-11:30
Lunch in the classroom-small groups	Teacher of the Deaf, Speech Language Pathologist	30 minutes 11:30-12:00
Prepare for Dismissal	Teacher of the Deaf and Speech Language Pathologist, Paras	15 minutes

Time in the afternoon will be used as prep for the following morning, cleaning of materials and classrooms and preparing online instruction. Paraprofessionals will routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, classroom tables and chairs).

Discovery room teacher will deliver her classes remotely, similarly to her current delivery options. Parents will receive packets and videos. Many of the activities will be a carryover from activities that took place earlier in the classroom. Activities will be geared towards materials found in the home and developed individually to meet each child's specific needs.

Hand Washing will occur but not limited to; the start of the day when children enter the classroom, before snacks and lunch, after using the toilet or helping a child use a toilet, after sneezing, wiping, and blowing noses, after snacks and lunch, particularly if hands are sticky, greasy or soiled, when students come in from outdoor play or recess. Hand washing schedules will be posted in each classroom along with signage for proper hand washing procedures.

### **Equal Access**

The Summit Speech School continues to ensure that our students and families will have equitable access to instruction. All families have been surveyed several times as to access to internet, computers, email and best phone number to call. At this time, all our families report access to the internet, a computer or tablet, email and all are connected to the Class Dojo app. Our Spanish interpreter has surveyed our Spanish speaking families and helped them connect to our online platforms. Our staff will be using each family's preferred means of communication along with Class Dojo, which is already in use, to communicate with families and caregivers. Our students are not able to work independently on devices. We have ensured that a family member is able to help our preschoolers log on to their computers and join zoom, DoJo or you tube activities. For students who are only able to attend for a brief time, we will supply materials and activities to be completed without the use of technology. Service providers will continue to monitor our families' ability to connect for remote instruction on a regular basis. District case managers will be notified in the event that a family is unable to participate in online instruction and attempts will be made to remedy the situation.

### **Demographic Profile**

All preschool students at Summit Speech School are classified as preschool disabled with the exception of our five-year olds who are classified as auditorily impaired. Roughly 20% of our preschool students come from homes where the primary language is Spanish. Our in-house Spanish interpreter is available to translate emails, call families and translate during teletherapy sessions when needed. Our sending districts keep track of all other demographics.

### **Provisions for Special Education Instruction**

All classroom Teachers of the Deaf will be focusing on each student's IEP goals and objectives in the areas of language and auditory development and will provide services in person for this hybrid model. All therapies, speech, OT and PT will be provided in house unless otherwise notified or student is not able to attend in person.

### **Accommodations/Modifications**

DM systems will be used in all classrooms, therapy sessions and on the playground.

### **Ensuring Student Emotional Well-Being**

Surveys have gone out to all parents with questionnaires regarding any changes in students' behaviors and to assess students' current emotional status. A series of parent meetings are also being held to discuss reentry into school as well as any concerns parents are having regarding their child. A video will be shared displaying teachers and therapists with lip reading masks and the new check in procedures and modifications in place for social distancing. Parents are encouraged to have their child practice wearing a mask at home before coming into the building. Since students are currently attending our summer session remotely, teachers and therapists providing teletherapy have been checking in with individual families and discussing the transition process to bring students back into the building.

### **Ensuring Staff Emotional Well-Being**

Staff members have been included in the planning process to reopen the building for September. A survey was sent out to all staff members in July and individual conferences were held to discuss individual concerns. All staff members have had opportunities to visit the building to see all changes that have been made in preparation of reopening the building. Weekly meetings over the summer are being held to keep staff informed of all recent developments. SSS will support educators' access to mental and behavioral resources and encourage them to utilize these services. SSS will also create opportunities for staff to regularly practice and reflect on their social and emotional competencies.

Prior to opening, preschool staff will have the opportunity to practice screening protocols with each other before applying to students.

An inservice will be held in the fall dealing with stress and anxiety management.

### **Assessments**

Formal and informal assessments will be conducted in person while we are delivering services with this hybrid model. All pre-academic skills will also be assessed in person by each student's teacher of the deaf. For students working remotely, skills will be monitored through online check-ins and providers will work with parents in order to obtain present levels of performance. Professional development will continue to be provided to all staff members as on line assessments for students with hearing loss become more readily available.

### **IEPs**

IEP reviews, eligibility meetings and reevaluation meetings will continue to be scheduled and held remotely with our staff and sending districts. Progress reports will continue to be sent out to case managers and families three times during the school year.

### **Lunch and Snack**

SSS will continue to provide individual snacks to students. Parents are required to send in a bag lunch to school each day. As students are now eating in the classrooms, we ask that parents send in food that does not need to be reheated as teachers will not have access to microwaves.

### **Attendance**

Classroom teachers will notify the office daily of student in person attendance. For remote instruction, parents will sign in to DoJo to announce their child's attendance for the day.

### **Plan B**

Should we need to reduce the number of students in a class, in order to maintain social distancing guidelines and provide a safer learning environment for our students, we will move to Plan B.

Students will attend in person two days a week from 8:30-12:15. Half the class will attend on Monday and Tuesdays, the other half Wednesdays and Thursdays. Remote instruction will continue to be provided in the afternoons and on the days a child does not attend in person. Remote instruction will include a combination of both teletherapy sessions and emails with instructions for take home activities as well as videos.

### **Plan C**

Full Remote instruction will be provided by all teachers of the deaf, speech and language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists as well as by our preschool teacher. See Summit Speech School Health-Related School Closure Preparedness Plan.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please reach out at any time to either myself at [mbaumont@summitspeech.org](mailto:mbaumont@summitspeech.org) or our preschool Principal, Sue Raymond, [sraymond@summitspeech.org](mailto:sraymond@summitspeech.org).

Sincerely,



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