

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *What is the cost of the EARS Program?*

All educational and hearing services are provided at no direct cost to the parents.

## *Is transportation provided?*

Transportation may be a service provided to the family.

## *How does the EARS Program work with Early Intervention services or my child's school district?*

Any services and programs provided are based on the individual needs of the child and the recommendations of the EI/CPSE team.

## *Can the EARS Program provide services for ESL families?*

EARS program staff are trained to meet the diverse needs of ESL families.



## **For more information, or to arrange a tour, please contact:**

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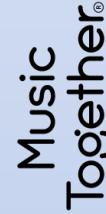
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St. Mary's School for the Deaf  
2253 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14214

Access • Inspire • Achieve

Thank you to our community partners:



Hear to learn.

Educational and Auditory Resources for Sound



### Who We Are

SMSD is a nationally accredited school that has successfully educated children with hearing loss for over 160 years.

The EARS Program teaches children ages birth-first grade to listen and speak through oral education.

### Our Mission

We use listening and spoken language to foster excellence in communication and academic and social achievement.

Our program is individualized to meet the needs of each child.

We utilize a family-oriented approach throughout our shared journey.

### Education Goals

We collaborate with the family, county of residence, and/or school district to develop an educational plan unique to each child.



Whether the goal is mainstreaming, partial mainstreaming or other educational placement, our team will work with each family to meet and exceed academic, social, and emotional goals.

### Intervention Approaches

Our experts use an auditory-verbal therapeutic approach.

Parents are taught to be their child's primary speech and language models.

Listening and spoken language skills are developed through natural communication opportunities:

- Interactive play
- Family activities
- Music
- Thematic field trips

Emphasis is placed on interaction with hearing peers during visits with established community partners two days each week.

### Highly Qualified Staff

Certified and experienced teachers, speech language pathologists, and audiologists support each child to reach their full potential.

Our program, developed in conjunction with internationally recognized Listening & Spoken Language Specialists and Auditory Verbal Therapy experts, stands apart as a leading program in deaf education.

### Audiology Services

SMSD offers state-of-the-art audiological services including:

- Newborn hearing screenings and diagnostic testing
- Comprehensive pediatric hearing aid, BAHA, and cochlear implant services

### Family Activities

Family involvement is the hallmark of the EARS program. Weekly family activities include:

- Parent/Preschool Playgroup
- Music Together® family music class
- Lunch & Learn caretaker education session
- Family speech and language sessions
- Opportunities for in-class participation
- A unique parent-to-parent support network

Family sessions and activities are supported by the latest technology, allowing for full family participation in school and at home.

