

Welcome to
the **Southwark
Hearing Support
Service (SHSS)**
2022 Autumn One
Newsletter.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Southwark Hearing Support Service (SHSS) 2022 Autumn One Newsletter. In this issue, we discuss our new Under-Fives group and provide you with tips for applying to schools.

Welcome to the new academic year 2022/23. We hope that you all enjoyed your summer.

We are very pleased to be back and to have our Under Fives' Group up and running. We enjoyed the first session (Wednesday 7th September) and were so pleased to be joined by some families. We sang some nursery rhymes and shared a story and spent some time getting to know each other. It always good to meet other families and for families to meet other Qualified Teachers of the Deaf (QToD) on the team. Our next session is on **Wednesday 5th October** and we will be joined by a specialist Speech and Language therapist. We have a fantastic space to use at **1st Place, Chumleigh Gardens** (12 Chumleigh Street, SE5 0RN), and we would love to see as many of you with under fives as possible from **10:30am until 12:00pm**. We will be holding the group the first Wednesday of every month and plan to do many fun activities, alongside the opportunity to meet other families, chat to a QToD and other professionals.

Best wishes

Southwark Hearing Support Service



A REMINDER OF HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US

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TIPS FOR APPLYING TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Choosing the right school for your child is very important. Try to involve them as much as possible in the decision – how they feel about their school will have an effect on their learning. Gather all the information you can to help you feel confident in making a choice that both you and your child will be happy with.

Southwark's admissions policy explains how you can choose and apply to a school.

www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) the document will outline your child's needs and will be used when considering which school best meets their needs. You will have the opportunity to provide your school preferences at the Year 5 annual review meeting. The school will then decide if they can meet your child's needs.

Where to start?

The first thing to do is to find out about schools in your area. Here are some things to consider;

- Start your search early.
- Search on the internet – look at each school's website, order or download the prospectus, and contact the school for more information.
- Read individual school OFSTED reports
- Ask other parents about schools in your area.
- If your child is moving from primary to secondary, (or moving to a school in another area) ask their Qualified Teacher of the Deaf (QToD) and other teaching staff who know your child about local schools.
- Read about different types of school for deaf children (below) to help you decide which school would suit your child best.

It is recommended that you visit schools. Secondary schools have open days/evenings that provide the chance for you and your child to have a look around the school and ask questions. While there ask to speak to the SENCo about how the school would meet your child's needs. It is a good idea to take your child with you so that they can get a feeling for the place and the people. You can chat together about how they felt about it afterwards.

The NDCS has put together a useful list, 'Choosing a school for your deaf child checklist'. This is worth downloading and having a look at. You may wish to take it with you when you visit the schools. It is for you to use as you wish and adapt to best suit your child. It can also help you to compare the schools. You can find it through the link below.

A few other things to consider

- Location of the school – how far will your child have to travel?
- What extra-curricular activities are on offer? And is the school prepared to make adjustments so that your child can participate fully?
- Are there any other deaf children currently studying at the school?
- If you're considering a school with a specialist resource provision, check the qualifications of staff in the resource provision. In most cases, your child will need an EHCP if you would like them to attend a special school or a school with a specialist resource provision.

These are just a few tips for you to get started. The NDCS website has a lot of information to help you along this journey.

www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/education-and-learning/choosing-a-deaf-friendly-school

If you have, any questions do get in touch.

*“Gather all the information you can to **help you feel confident** in making a choice that both **you and your child will be happy with.**”*