



Greenwood Primary School Partially-Hearing Unit

Mission Statement:

The Greenwood Primary School Partially-Hearing Unit helps hearing-impaired learners to cope with their disability and improve their spoken language and communication skills.

Learners achieve their full academic and social potential in small, specially-equipped classes under the guidance of speciality trained educators, while integrating and interacting with their hearing peers.

Admission Criteria:

1. Preference will be given to:

- 1.1) Hearing-impaired children. The child's hearing impairment must be fully diagnosed by an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist. Recent reports from all medical specialists must be submitted with application as well as birth and immunisation certificates.
- 1.2) Children of profoundly deaf parents whose language development may be impeded by the lack of oral language stimulation in their home environments.
- 1.3) Children with delayed language development due to psycho-neurological or medical reasons.
- 1.4) Pre-school children between the ages of 3 and 6 years, and have been potty-trained will be considered if they qualify with the relevant criteria.

2. Communication

- 2.1) Children who are in need of specialised language stimulation and tuition for the development of language will be considered for admission if they meet the criteria set out in paragraph 1, and provided that they will benefit from the structured oral language development programme that is provided by us at our Pre-school.
- 2.2) English must be the means of communication for the learner. Signing and total communication methods are not used in partially hearing classes.

3. Assessments

Prior to formal certification of a Partially Hearing Learner with Special Educational needs, the learner must undergo full audiological, speech, language and scholastic/psychological assessments before the multi-disciplinary team will consider admission to the classes.

Caution is exercised when considering test results on instruments designed for use on populations other than those of Eastern Cape. Qualitative assessments and observation must be considered in conjunction with formal test results for each learner.

A trial period of at least 3 to 6 months within the Partially Hearing Unit is recommended in order to determine whether the child is benefitting from the programme and making desired progress with special reference to speech and language development.

4. Ideally every learner seeking admission should be assessed on the following:

- a) The Griffith's Scale of Development (by a qualified psychologist)

b) A speech and language assessment (by a qualified speech therapist)

Parents/guardians are responsible for the arrangement of appointments and the cost involved, and must agree to all reports being available to the relevant qualified personnel, (these reports are kept in the strictest confidence and governed by a code of professional ethics) on a clear understanding that the results will not necessarily guarantee admission of their child into the pre-school.

The educational support team reserves the right to have a child re-assessed if there is any doubt regarding the suitability and beneficial placement of the learner.

5. When placement is being considered for a learner, a multi-disciplinary panel of psychologists, teachers, speech correction teachers or therapists will make an informed decision in consultation with the parents as to which class or grade would suite the learner best. This will depend on the learner's level of language development and ability to cope with the education requirements of the grade for which they seek admission.
6. The Education Department must sanction classification and formal placement in Specialised Education.
7. Every learner who is enrolled at the Greenwood Primary Partially Hearing Unit should be re-assessed regularly on the assessments in (4a and 4b), as well as any other assessment that is deemed relevant.