



American Sign Language Instructor Posting

The Deaf Children's Society of BC (DCS) is a non-profit organization that provides early intervention support and services to families of Deaf children throughout BC. Our team uses a family- and child-centered approach, offering expertise and guidance as families navigate opportunities for language, education, speech, and communication development.

We are currently seeking a qualified American Sign Language (ASL) Instructor. In early intervention, ASL instructors are crucial in creating a supportive environment to foster communication development. They support the language and communication development of children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or have Deaf parents. Their role is to ensure children have a strong foundation for language acquisition and social-emotional growth.

Reporting to the Executive Director, the responsibilities for this position include, but are not limited to:

Teaching ASL to Children and their Families

- Introduce American Sign Language (ASL) signs to infants, toddlers and preschoolers to help them communicate and develop lesson plans to support the family's learning.
- Use age-appropriate techniques like play-based learning, songs, visual aids, and interactive games to engage young children in learning ASL.
- Encourage early language development by teaching expressive (signing) and receptive (understanding) ASL skills.

Parent and Family Coaching

- Work closely with parents and caregivers to teach them ASL so they can effectively communicate with their child and reinforce language learning at home.
- Provide strategies for integrating ASL into daily routines, such as during meal times, play, and other activities.
- Educate families on the importance of visual communication and early language exposure for cognitive and social development.
- Provide ASL instruction - community or family-group instruction such as playgroup.

Collaborating with Early Intervention Specialists

- Collaborate with Speech-Language Pathologists, ASL Specialists and early intervention professionals to develop and implement individualized plans that support each child's communication needs.
- Participate in multidisciplinary meetings to assess the child's progress and adapt interventions as necessary.
- Maintain accurate records/files on family home visits.

Promoting Deaf Culture and Bilingualism

- Introducing families to Deaf culture and community resources, helping them understand the social and cultural importance of ASL.
- Advocate for a bilingual approach (ASL and English) to give children access to multiple forms of communication.

Qualifications and Experience:

- At least two years of experience in ASL instruction in a recognized program or equivalent
- Knowledge of Deaf Culture: Understanding the values, norms, and experiences of the Deaf community, as well as promoting cultural competence in families.
- Knowledge of child development. Experience working with parents of deaf children and curriculum/instructional material development would be an asset.
- Experience in Early Childhood Settings: Prior experience teaching or working with infants and toddlers in early childhood education settings is highly valuable. This includes knowledge of developmental milestones and early language acquisition.
- Superior rating on the ASL Proficiency Scale (candidates may be required to submit to an ASL Proficiency Interview)
- ASL Teaching certification
- Understanding of ASL Linguistics
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of/lived experience within the Deaf community and cultural issues is essential.
- Ability to communicate effectively both in ASL and in writing
- Must possess a valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle. Must be able to travel throughout the region
- Ability to work independently with an irregular/flexible schedule

****If you have a master's degree and are recognized as an ASL specialist, you will receive priority.**

Hours

Monday to Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The job posting will be active until the right candidate is found

Salary

32.81 per hour

**Qualified applicants are asked to submit a resume and cover letter to Teresa Fleming,
tfleming@deafchildren.b.c.ca**

**Only candidates being considered for an interview will be contacted.
Thank you for your interest in the Deaf Children's Society of BC.**