



Early Childhood Special Education Peer Model Program

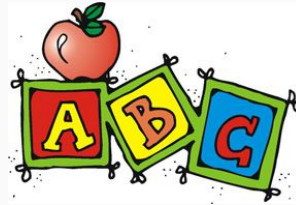
2024-25

Southern Door County School District

What is peer modeling and what are the benefits?

❖ Also called reverse inclusion

- Program where typically developing children attend a special education classroom to serve as role models.



❖ Benefits for all children!

- Promote an appreciation of similarities and differences of self and others.
- Typically developing peer models learn leadership skills, patience, and empathy.
- Children with special needs learn language, social, and play skills by following their peers' lead.



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Our Program Basics

- ❖ Classes are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- ❖ Peer Models will be assigned to one of two classes:
 - The morning class runs from 7:45 AM-10:45 AM.
 - The afternoon class runs from 11:50 AM-2:50 PM.
- ❖ We follow the [Southern Door Elementary calendar](#).
- ❖ There is a teacher and a full-time associate in the classroom.
- ❖ Peer Models must be potty trained.

Play Based Instruction

- ❖ Playing is learning!
- ❖ Helps development in all areas
 - Social
 - Communication
 - Cognitive
 - Gross Motor
 - Fine Motor
- ❖ Carefully planned learning opportunities related to theme



Daily Classroom Schedule

Our day will include:

- ❖ Independent work tasks at table
- ❖ Breakfast (morning class) or Lunch (afternoon class)
- ❖ Circle time, whole group instruction
- ❖ Playtime
- ❖ Journaling
- ❖ Gross motor movement time
- ❖ Looking at books
- ❖ Snack
- ❖ Art
- ❖ Recess



What are we looking for in Peer Model children?

- ❖ Strong language skills
 - Answers questions, vast vocabulary
- ❖ Social in nature
 - Seeks proximity to others, greets peers/adults, enjoys cooperative play
- ❖ Strong play skills
 - Able to play independently and with others, uses imagination
- ❖ Good behavior
 - Follows directions, Seeks adult approval



Sounds great, now what?



- ❖ **Complete and submit the application through the [Google Form](#) by Friday, March 15.**
 - Please answer questions as thoroughly as possible.
- ❖ **Save the Date!** Online applications will be followed by an in-person Play Date here at school, on Wednesday, March 20.
 - (More details to follow.)
- ❖ Admission decisions will be made by May 15. Spaces are limited, but may be increased throughout the year with program success.
- ❖ If you have further questions please contact our Early Childhood teacher, Missy Ramel, at mrangel@sdsd.k12.wi.us



Southern Door County School District 2024-25 Peer Model Program Details and Policies

- ❖ Thank you for your interest in our program! Once your form has been submitted, Mrs. Ramel will be in contact with you to further discuss your application, and to answer any questions you might have.
- ❖ At this time, Peer Model applicants must be a child/grandchild of a Southern Door County School District employee. The program may be opened up to the wider Southern Door County School District community if spots remain.
- ❖ Peer Models must be 3-4 years old and not yet enrolled in school.
- ❖ Peer Models must be potty trained.
- ❖ Parent/Guardian(s) of Peer Models are responsible for providing their child's daily, on-time transportation to and from school.
 - Regular, on-time attendance is important for establishing peer relationships in this program.
- ❖ The standard Elementary Materials Fee applies, and as no public school funds are allocated to the peer model program, we will be requesting an additional \$100 for the school year to help cover costs.
 - If the program is discontinued mid-year, these fees will be refunded to you on a prorated basis.
- ❖ School Food Service is not available to Peer Models.
 - Peer Models are encouraged to bring a cold breakfast (morning class) or lunch (afternoon class) from home if desired.
- ❖ Spaces are limited. Program staff will make Admissions decisions based on the best fit for Early Childhood students.
- ❖ Please Note: Southern Door County School District reserves the right to dismiss any Peer Model who is not able to act as a role model child within the program. We reserve the right to discontinue the Peer Model program, either temporarily or long-term, in the event that the services/support needs of our Early Childhood students change or otherwise exceed our staffing ability to include Peer Model children in the classroom.