



INNOVATION = POSITIVE RESULTS

The marriage of a Montessori based curriculum to Florida's Common Core State Standards has proven to be extremely successful. With classes formed by 3-year groupings, students and teachers bond, grow and learn together, providing avenues for student mentoring, role modeling, and high expectations.

- Blossom Students take the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT). Reading, Language and Math scores continue to show marked improvement.
- Students who graduated from Blossom and continue onto high school report appropriate adjustments and function at a level that is average to above average with their peers.

OUR MISSION

To educate Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, their hearing siblings and children of Deaf adults (CODAs), and prepare them for a lifetime of success in the community.

OUR VISION

To be the premier education and communication center for families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in the State of Florida.



BLOSSOM MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All charitable gifts are tax deductible in accordance with current tax laws. The Federal Tax ID number is 42-1589773. Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

GIVING CHILDREN A CHANCE, PARENTS A CHOICE.



 **BLOSSOM**
MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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BLOSSOM MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

One of only a handful of schools of its kind, Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf in Clearwater, Florida was founded in 2003 to provide an innovative learning environment for children ages 2 ½ – 15 who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, siblings of a Deaf child, and children with Deaf parents (CODA).

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 800,000 Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals in Florida and almost half of them live in the Tampa Bay Area.
- 90% of Deaf children are born to hearing parents and only 10% of those hearing parents ever learn to communicate effectively with their Deaf child(ren).
- Most Deaf children reach school age unable to communicate with their teachers or classmates.
- 75-85% of Deaf children reach age 18 reading at only a 3rd or 4th grade level.
- The lifetime cost to society of a child born deaf in terms of medical, educational, and productivity losses is \$1,020,000.



WHY BLOSSOM MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF WAS CREATED

There is a better way for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, their siblings, and children with Deaf parents to learn. These children, all children for that matter, learn best at their own pace in an atmosphere that encourages creativity and exploration. Blossom's Montessori-based curriculum is incredibly effective for Deaf children because:

- Children learn at their own pace using visual hands-on materials.
- Lesson plans are customized for each child.
- Enhanced services including speech, behavioral and occupational therapy are provided.
- Class sizes are small (typically 5-10 children) allowing each child individual attention from their teacher.
- We communicate using both American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken English.

Blossom Montessori is an accredited member of the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) and the Florida Kindergarten Council (FKC).

To ensure quality, all member schools must undergo an extensive accreditation process, with a periodic review every five years. Schools must successfully meet standards found in FCIS Bylaws & Standards Manual, demonstrate financial stability, provide quality education, and successfully undergo evaluation visits to be granted and to retain membership in FCIS. Membership in FCIS and FKC confirms the following:

- Adherence to rigorous standards
- Commitment to FCIS Code of Ethics
- Legislative voice at the state level to promote freedom from governmental interference
- Smooth transition to higher education for graduating students
- Access to professional development offered by FCIS National recognition via NAIS Commission on Accreditation

