



CAREL DU TOIT CENTRE

Where deaf children learn to speak

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/careldutoitcentre

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Finding out that your child has a hearing loss comes as a shock to most parents – feelings of fear, isolation and devastation are common. The CHAT centre (Children Hear and Talk) is where you will receive support, guidance and be empowered to help your child. The Carel du Toit CHAT Centre is where our families start, with a wish on their hearts to help their child speak. There is hope for a child with hearing loss!

"All uncertainty you feel now, you will look back on it and it won't be the end of your world. It's the beginning of an exciting journey ahead. Carel du Toit Centre is there for you". Johan (father of a child who attended CdT)

HEARING LOSS AFFECTS YOUR CHILD'S ABILITY TO LEARN TO LISTEN AND SPEAK

Hearing children learn language naturally and easily because they can hear their caregivers speaking around them. Wearing hearing technology such as hearing aids and cochlear implants, allows your child with hearing loss to hear more sound. Now that your child has access to sound, you need information and specific skills to help your child learn to talk. This is most easily done before your child is 3 years old. After 3 years, it takes more work and time for your child to learn to speak. The earlier you start, the better the outcome.

Quality information about hearing loss and its management is also important. The more you know, the more empowered you will be to make informed decisions for your child. Each child and family are different - what works for one may not necessarily work for another.

OUR CHAT CENTRE OFFERS:

- **Family centred early intervention**
Weekly sessions empowering you and your family to teach your child to listen and speak using the listening and spoken language approach.
- **On-site support team**
Access to support services – audiology, speech therapy, social work and occupational therapy depending on your child's daily needs.
- **Support groups**
Connect with other families experiencing similar journeys with children with hearing loss.
- **Creche and school support**
Where needed we can work with your child's creche or school to offer support and information to caregivers and teaching staff regarding the needs of children who are deaf.

THE CAREL DU TOIT CENTRE

The primary focus of the CHAT Centre is to offer an all-encompassing early intervention programme to all children who are deaf or have hearing loss. They have the capacity to acquire spoken language provided key factors are addressed:

1. Hearing device use for all waking hours
2. Caregivers/parents' commitment to attending their CHAT sessions
3. Carryover of the principles learned in sessions into their daily routines.

The Carel du Toit school follows a multidisciplinary team approach to ensure the optimal development of each child. We provide quality education to children from nursery to Grade 3. The Foundation Phase (Gr R - 3) learners follow the mainstream Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) curriculum. The preschool classes benefit from experiential learning using weekly themes based on real life experiences and learning excursions fostering listening and language development. Education is offered in English or Afrikaans and class sizes range from 5-10 children. All classrooms are acoustically treated for optimum listening and each teacher uses a remote microphone system which streams their voice directly into the child's hearing technology.



OUR SCHOOL OFFERS:

IDEAL EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Acoustically adapted classrooms as well as remote microphone technology to optimise listening. Small class numbers enabling maximum individual attention.

SPEECH THERAPY

Children receive weekly speech and language therapy which is also incorporated in class for maximum carry over.

AUDIOLOGY

We collaborate with each child's audiologist (both private and public) to ensure optimal hearing care. Daily listening checks are integral to guarantee that children can hear and listen in the learning environment. Remote microphone technology worn by every child and teacher transmit the teacher's voice directly to the hearing devices.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Regular occupational therapy is crucial for balance, co-ordination and planning of the body's movements are integral to a child's development and ability to sit and learn. The centre family support worker is available to assist families to best support their child.

BEYOND OUR BORDERS

Families from across Africa attend our centre to access these specialised services which are not available across the continent. International candidates for our program may attend CHAT sessions during intensive visits and subsequent tele-intervention is also offered. Accommodation is available on the grounds of the Carel du Toit Centre, subject to availability.



Registered Charity / 003-401 NPO / PBO. 130003124

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

The Carel du Toit Trust is proud to partner with Tygerberg Hospital to screen the hearing of all infants born at the hospital. This ensures identification and management of hearing loss from as early as possible.



Newborn hearing screening



The CDT Trust is the fundraising arm of the Carel du Toit Centre. As a registered charity we issue Section 18A tax certificates annually to South African citizens who donate R1000 or more per annum. Certificates for smaller donations are issued on request.

Donations allow our Centre to continue teaching children who are deaf to listen and speak. If you wish to donate to this life changing cause, please visit our website where you can donate via EFT, credit or debit card, debit order or snapscan: www.careldutoit.co.za



Scan here to donate

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