

Suggestions for Recruiting Classroom Role Models

Ideas contributed by teachers in the
Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities

- ✓ I have approached parents I see walking with a small person in the school.
- ✓ I attended a PTA meeting in the spring to announce the opportunity to enroll role models in my class in the fall.
- ✓ I got help from the office staff as new children registered for our school.
- ✓ Our school used ConnectEd telephone message system to recruit role models.
- ✓ Our school tried utilizing our Parent Outreach Coordinator. As she visited families from our school, she kept an eye out for children who could be role models.
- ✓ Our school placed a flyer on the main office door.
- ✓ Our school recruited from the campus daycare center.
- ✓ Some of our school staff enrolled their own children.
- ✓ Siblings of older students at school make up a good percentage of our role models.
- ✓ We recruited the younger siblings of those who applied for VPK.
- ✓ We approached families on the VPK applicant list from the school office.
- ✓ We recruited from the waiting list for our school's Head Start program.
- ✓ I made frequent announcements at PTA meetings.
- ✓ Being new to the school I relied heavily on the recommendations of the Office Staff. They let me know which families were easy to work with, based on older siblings, prior to my screening the children. They were correct each time. Their input was essential.
- ✓ For me, the most effective method was simply approaching people and talking up the program. I invited them to drop by to check it out, and talked it up as a free program, even for three-year-olds. Very effective to approach mothers with newborns!

- ✓ I am not a teacher, but a parent who is interested in placing my daughter (and later maybe my son) as a role model in a pre-K classroom next fall. There are parents out there who would use this program for their "typically" developing children if they just knew about it. Flyers in pediatricians' offices, therapy clinics, hospitals, or even Publix might help to get the word out. Just thought I would give some input...
- ✓ I sent flyers home to every class in the school and I had people in the community put flyers up in the churches and stores.
- ✓ I would have someone attend the last PTA meeting for the school year and the very first meeting for the following year and make a brief presentation about the program, emphasizing the positive aspects of the VPK for the role models so that the parents may feel at ease about placing their children in a reverse mainstream classroom.
- ✓ I suggest holding informational meetings before school starts.
- ✓ I suggest putting a link on the internet and listing the schools and contact teachers with possible role model slots. Everyone loves the net!
- ✓ The pre-k waiting list is important. Make sure to develop a relationship with the person handling the waiting list, so that you can have quick access to those kids who did not get into the regular pre-k classrooms.
- ✓ We made a board, like the science project boards, with pictures from our class and a file jacket attached with fliers announcing the program. We had this up at our Resource Fair for Open House and the idea was to have it up in the front office all year. Many parents who saw the pictures inquired about the program.
- ✓ When I meet someone with a two or three year old, I start telling them about my program a year ahead of time.