



BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Blue Valley early childhood classes enrolling for 2012-13**

Blue Valley's Peer Model preschool program is now enrolling for the 2012-13 school year. The Peer Model Program provides an opportunity for typically developing children to receive a high-quality preschool education while serving as role models for children with special needs. Children are eligible to attend when they are three years of age. Full enrollment criteria, as well as program information, can be found at [www.bluevalleyk12.org/earlychildhood](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/earlychildhood). In addition, applications are still being accepted for the current school year, as there are a few remaining openings.

The Early Childhood Program will be holding two open houses for parents to learn more about the program. The first will be at Oak Hill Elementary, 10200 W. 124<sup>th</sup> Street in Overland Park, on January 24 from 6-8 p.m. The second open house will be at Timber Creek Elementary, 16451 Flint Street in Overland Park, on January 26 from 6-8 p.m.

Peer model students provide positive peer interactions; engage in play skills, and model appropriate language and behavior for children with special needs while in the classroom setting. To be a peer model, a student must demonstrate age-appropriate skills across developmental areas, be independent with toileting and speak English fluently.

"Kids learn best from other kids and research is clear that when children are integrated in this type of program, it has a positive impact on students with special needs as well as students who are typically developing," said Kendall Burr, Blue Valley's special education coordinator for early childhood.

For more information about the Peer Model Program and other Early Childhood programs, go to [www.bluevalleyk12.org/earlychildhood](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/earlychildhood) or call (913) 239-4720.