

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING KIDS

Get Their Attention First

Make sure they are looking at you and can see you clearly before you start talking.

Use Your Signs

ASL is a visual language, making it easier for Deaf and Hard of Hearing kids to learn, improving learning in any environment.

Find What Works Best

Every child is different. Check for understanding and follow what works. Deaf professionals would be more than happy to work with you to strengthen your communication.

Reduce distractions and obstructions

Chewing gum, covering your mouth, focusing on someone else, poor lighting, noisy/distracting environment can make communication more difficult!

Don't Exaggerate Your Mouth Movements

When talking, speak with a normal pace and tone, and keep in mind that most Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals struggle to lipread. This is one reason we encourage ASL to be used.

Demonstrate Patience

Showing patience demonstrates that you value communicating with them. Take your time, there's no rush!

More Tips For Communicating with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Kids

Use How-To Demonstrations

Communicate while showing the child how to do something, such as cooking or building.

Use Open-ended Questions

To check for understanding, asking open-ended questions is better than asking YES/NO questions.

Share Details

Reduce guesswork by sharing topics of conversations right away and sharing about schedule changes.

Talk With Your Child On Daily Basis

Your child craves your attention and talking about daily events and the family calendar will help your child feel included and aware of the environment

Use Gestures, Facial Expressions, and Body Language

Using these benefits communication, especially if you are not fluent in ASL.

Don't be afraid to make silly expressions!

Let Them Choose Their Seating

Deaf and Hard of Hearing kids rely on a good view in order to follow what's going on. In classrooms especially, sitting in front is beneficial, and at the family table, they need to see everyone, without glare from the windows.

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