

Communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing

There are many different ways that people who are hard of hearing, deaf or deafblind communicate. The way that someone communicates is likely to depend on their preference and whether they have acquired their sensory loss or whether they were born with it. Here are our top 10 tips for communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing.

1. Avoid covering your mouth and try not to exaggerate your mouth patterns, as people may need to lip read
2. Body language is important, smiles translate in every language!
3. Don't shout, it can be uncomfortable for hearing aid users and might come across as aggressive
4. If there is strong light, stand with it in front of you rather than behind you (it is harder to see someone in silhouette)
5. Try to wear a plain, single coloured top. Bright, multi colours can be off putting to someone who relies on visual communications)
6. If someone can't understand you, find another way to communicate. Could you re-phrase it, use gestures or write it down?
7. To politely get the someone's attention, gently tap their arm
8. Try to reduce background noise
9. If you have a T-Loop, turn it on!
10. Be patient - if someone can't hear you, try not to say: "Oh never mind" or "I'll tell you later"

Contact us to find out more:



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