TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH A DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING CHILD

CATCH ATTENTION BY:

- Waving your arms
- Tapping them on the shoulder
- Using visual cues such as a flashcard that shows ‘TIME OUT’ in English
- Waving one of the coloured Blueprint paddles with your chosen Auslan sign attached
- Deploy a buddy system for all the children in your class - to encourage them to work together

- Don’t hide your mouth whilst speaking
- Use exaggerated facial expressions and gestures
- Allow time for a child to respond to instructions
- Pause regularly to check everyone understands
- Meet with parents or your deaf or hard of hearing teammates beforehand to help you prepare
- Ask about their preferred way to communicate and what devices they might use
- Make time to brief the opposing team about your deaf or hard of hearing teammate

- Catch the child’s attention before you start
- Face the child, at the same level
- Limit background noise
- Speak naturally, clearly, and at a normal rate
- Don’t shout
- When speaking, position yourself in a well lit area - don't have the light behind you.

For further information about Deaf Children Australia
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Deaf Children Australia uses the term ‘deaf’ to refer to all degrees and types of hearing loss.

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