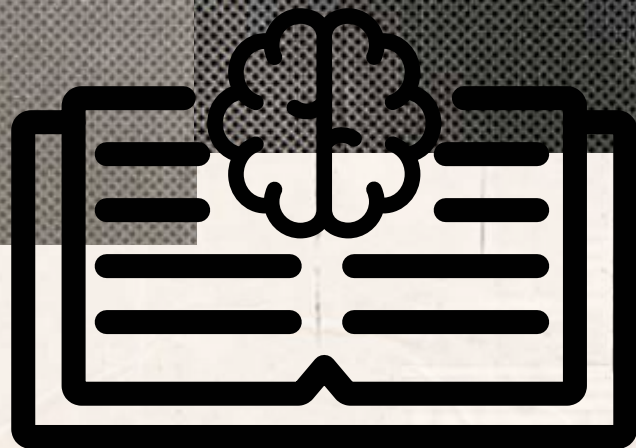


# > TIPS FOR AN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM FOR DEAF LISTNERS

FACTS ABOUT DEAFNESS

OUT  
BUT

10 THINGS YOU  
SHOULD KNOW TO  
HELP DEAF AND  
HARD OF HEARING  
STUDENTS FEEL  
INCLUDED AT  
SCHOOL.



INCLUSIVITY

**Did you know that nearly 50% of parents of a deaf or hard of hearing child worry about their child attending a mainstream school? Additionally, parents worry that their child may find it challenging to make friends or be bullied (ref Flying Colours Survey 2021).**

**Promoting inclusion can benefit the entire school community and with the right support, deaf students can excel academically and socially. These simple tips can help you create a welcoming environment for deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) students.**

## INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND STAFF

Let the student and their family know who's who at school, especially the people they'll see regularly. Wearing name badges can help.

## ASK ABOUT COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

DHH students may communicate through speech, sign language, or lip reading. Ask the student or their family what works best.

## LEARN BASIC AUSLAN SIGNS

Learn a few simple signs like "hello," "stop," and "time out" to improve communication.

## PROVIDE WRITTEN CLASSROOM RULES

Display rules both visually and in written form so families can easily refer to them.

## FACE THE STUDENT WHEN SPEAKING

Make sure the student can see your face when you speak. Speak clearly without shouting.

## USE VISUAL AIDS

Support verbal instructions with photos, pictures, and other visual tools to help students follow along.

## ACT OUT INSTRUCTIONS

Demonstrate your instructions using gestures and body language to help make things clearer.

## MAKE EYE CONTACT

Get the student's attention before speaking. Crouch down to their eye level if needed.

## CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Ensure the student has understood your instructions. If needed, rephrase or use a different communication method.

## ENCOURAGE PEER SUPPORT

Encourage classmates to support their deaf peers by learning some basic sign language or finding other ways to communicate.







## DID YOU KNOW?

Estimates show between 3.4 and 12.8% of Australian primary school children have a hearing impairment.

# 12.8%

For further information about Deaf Children Australia.

**[deafchildrenaustralia.org.au](http://deafchildrenaustralia.org.au)**

**Helpline: 1800 645 916**

**[helpline@deafchildren.org.au](mailto:helpline@deafchildren.org.au)**

[www.facebook.com/DeafChildrenAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/DeafChildrenAustralia)

# BUILD ING BRIDGES

**Deaf  
Children  
Australia.**

Deaf Children Australia uses the term 'deaf' to refer to all degrees and types of hearing loss. Revised 2019 – Copyright © Deaf Children Australia 2019