

FACTS ABOUT DEAFNESS

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INCLUSIVITY

> working with interpreters

Get the most out of sessions with an interpreter to support inclusion of deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

MEET THE INTERPRETER BEFOREHAND

If possible, try to meet the interpreter before class begins. This gives you a chance to go over the lesson plan for the day, and other information that might give the interpreter more context.

MAKE SURE THE CHILD CAN SEE THE INTERPRETER

It's important for the DHH child or young person to have a clear, direct view of the interpreter. The interpreter should sit or stand directly in front of the child.

In a small group, try to have the children sitting in a circle or semi-circle rather than a theatre-style arrangement.

PROVIDE GOOD LIGHTING

Good lighting helps the child see the interpreter clearly. If you need to dim or turn off the lights, make sure the child can still see the interpreter.

TALK DIRECTLY TO THE CHILD

It can be hard to know who to talk to when you're working with an interpreter. It's best to maintain eye contact with the DHH person and speak directly to them. Avoid directing comments (such as 'Tell him.' or 'Ask her...') to the interpreter.

SPEAK NATURALLY

Speak at your normal pace. The interpreter will ask you to slow down or repeat something if needed.

LET ONE PERSON SPEAK AT A TIME

An interpreter can only interpret one speaker at a time.

ASK THE CHILD IF THEY ARE FOLLOWING THE CONVERSATION

It's a good idea to check in now and then to make sure the child is understanding the conversation.

AVOID SAYING ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT INTERPRETED

The interpreter will interpret everything they hear. Do not ask them to leave out any part of the conversation.

AVOID ASKING THE INTERPRETER FOR AN OPINION OR COMMENT

Interpreters follow a code of ethics and must be impartial in every setting. Avoid asking them questions like what they thought of a meeting or the content of your conversation.

GIVE THEM A SHORT BREAK EVERY HOUR

Interpreting is mentally and physically demanding. Do not expect the interpreter to interpret during their breaks.

When you're including deaf or hard-of-hearing (DHH) children in the classroom, there may be times you want to work with an interpreter. Here are some tips to help you make the most of it.