

### Introduce yourself

Let the child and family know who's who at your club, especially people they'll be seeing regularly - like coaches or admin staff. It can help to wear name badges.

### Find out how best to communicate with the child

DHH kids use various ways to communicate, including signs, speech, and lip reading. Ask the child or family what communication methods are best.

### Learn some helpful Auslan signs

Knowing a few Auslan signs can make communication easier. You might like to learn signs for 'hello', 'this way', 'go', 'stop', and 'time out'. See our guide on how to make some common signs.

### Club Rules

Make written copies of club rules so families can take away and read in their own time. You might also like to display team rules on a poster.

### Face the child when you're speaking

“It's easier for a DHH child to understand you when they can see your face. Speak clearly, without shouting.”

### My coaches know to turn and face me so I can read their lips.”

EJ, DEAF TENNIS PLAYER

### Use visual aids

Visual representations like photos and images can help kids understand and follow instructions. Swim teachers can use visual signals like flags or waving to gain attention during competition.

### Act out your instructions

Support verbal instructions with demonstrations and other gestures like nodding or head shaking.

### Make eye contact

When you're speaking with a DHH child, it's important to make sure you have their attention and gain eye contact before speaking. A good way to do this is to crouch down to the child's eye level.

### Check everyone has understood your instructions

Check to make sure the child has understood you. If they seem confused, try rephrasing or use another communication method - such as a demonstration or written instructions.

“After I've discussed the session with the whole group, I'll spend a bit of time with him one-on-one.”

SEB, WHO COACHES DEAF SWIMMER NICK

# 10 THINGS SWIM TEACHERS SHOULD KNOW TO HELP DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING KIDS FEEL ACCEPTED AND INCLUDED



**REMEMBER:**  
**ADULT**  
SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES



For further information about  
Deaf Children Australia  
[deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/puggles](http://deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/puggles)

**03 9539 5300 or email**  
[communications@deafchildren.org.au](mailto:communications@deafchildren.org.au)

**puggles**

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

**OPEN  
WATER.**

**Deaf  
Children  
Australia.**

**Swim**  
COACHES & TEACHERS  
AUSTRALIA  
**Sunnyskyes**

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE PHILIPS FOUNDATION