

# How to create an inclusive environment for your Deaf student

Building bridges

## Abstract

For educators with Deaf students in their classrooms, this resource provides essential deaf awareness information to help you create an inclusive and fully accessible learning environment.

---

*LEARN BASIC SIGN LANGUAGE*

---

Teachers and lecturers could consider learning some fingerspelling or some basic sign language to being able to say, “My name is...” or “Good morning. How are you?”.

This will not only put your deaf student at ease, but will enhance your learning environment and allow an inclusive environment for the whole class to develop new skills, thus helping put all new students at ease.



[WATCH OUR VIDEO TUTORIALS >>](#)

---

## *HOW TO WORK WITH A COMMUNICATION SUPPORT WORKER (CSW)*

---

Interpreters and CSWs are certified professionals. They facilitate communication between you and your class and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (HoH) student.

### Tips

- Maintain direct communication with the student, not the interpreter, e.g.. don't say "Has she done her homework?" but rather, "Have you done your homework?".
- The Signer will interpret everything you are saying, so avoid private conversation with others in the presence of Deaf persons.
- It is OK to speak naturally at a reasonable speed. The Signer will let you know when clarification or a slower pace is needed.
- Remember to allow enough time during class discussion for your Deaf student to get the information from the Signer and being able to participate and reciprocate.

[READ OUR BASIC GUIDELINES >>](#)

---

### TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIAL

---



Give special consideration to your teaching/learning material in order to support your Deaf or HoH student's learning and increase their potential to succeed.

Providing written handouts (bullet points please) and visual content, will really make a difference and will help your student not to miss anything important.

---

### IS YOUR CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT ACCESSIBLE?

---

Paying particular attention to the following aspects will help to mitigate any possible challenges your Deaf/HoH students might face in the classroom:

Allow your student to have a clear view of you, the Signer, any visual aids and its classmates. You might need to make minor rearrangements to your classroom, e.g. arrange desks in a semicircle. If this is not possible, invite your student to sit in front and to the side if they are comfortable with this.

If you need to turn the lights off to use a projector, make sure the lighting is adequate and that the Deaf student can see their Signer.

If your Deaf/HoH student uses hearing aids it would be helpful to try to reduce the background noise in the classroom.



FREE POSTERS FOR YOU

Click to download.

**TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING IN WRITING WITH A DEAF PERSON**

- USE BULLET POINTS AND DOUBLE LINE SPACING TO ALLOW FOR ONE LINE TO BE READ AT A TIME
- AVOID FOOTNOTES AT THE BOTTOM AND CONTAINING TO THAT HAVE ALWAYS EYE CONTACT
- BE CLEAR, USE SIMPLE WORDS AND AVOID JARGON
- USE DIRECT QUESTIONS, THEY ARE NOT ASKED FOR A DEAF PERSON
- DON'T ADD LOTS OF LANGUAGE WHEN IT'S NOT NEEDED, JUST BRING THE EYES TO YOU OR THEIR COMMUNICATION IS NON-VERBAL
- IF A DIAGRAM IS EASIER TO SHOW SOMETHING, USE IT DEAF PEOPLE WORK IN A VISUAL FORMAT AND DRAWING HELPS MORE
- IF YOU WANT A FORM OR LETTER YOU CAN USE, UNDERLINE THE KEY POINTS, OR HIGHLIGHT THEM IN RED AND BOLD NEED COMPLETE

www.deafumbrella.com

**DO'S AND DON'TS WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH A DEAF/HoH PERSON**

<p><b>DO'S</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- REPEAT YOUR WORDS OR WRITE IT DOWN</li> <li>- BRING GOOD LIGHT IN A ROOM AND MOVE AWAY FROM BACKGROUND NOISE</li> <li>- BE PATIENT</li> <li>- KEEP YOUR MOUTH VISIBLE</li> <li>- MAKE YOUR MOUTH, EAR, THROAT, FLAPES THE MOUTH IN THE ROOM</li> <li>- MAKE EYE CONTACT AND FACE THE DEAF PERSON</li> <li>- DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING IS THE ONLY TERM YOU NEED</li> <li>- SPEAK CLEARLY AT A NATURAL PACE</li> </ul>	<p><b>DON'TS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KEEP REPEATING</li> <li>- START TALKING WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF THE SILENTNESS</li> <li>- GIVE UP</li> <li>- COVER YOUR MOUTH</li> <li>- SHOUT, SCREAMING, OR GET THE PERSON'S ATTENTION</li> <li>- TURN AROUND, LOOK DOWN OR AWAY</li> <li>- REF TO A PERSON AS A DEAF AND DUMB</li> <li>- SHOUT OR EXAGGERATE MOUTH PATTERNS</li> </ul>
--	--

www.deafumbrella.com

**HOW TO GET A DEAF PERSON'S ATTENTION**

- IF YOU'RE CLOSE ENOUGH, TAP THE PERSON'S SHOULDER. THIS IS THE PREFERRED WAY TO GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION
- SWITCH LIGHTS ON AND OFF TO GET ATTENTION VISUALLY
- WAVE CASUALLY YOUR HAND IN THEIR PERIPHERAL VISION FIELD TO CATCH THEIR EYE
- STOMP ON THE FLOOR A FEW TIMES AND THEY'LL FEEL THE VIBRATIONS

www.deafumbrella.com

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

- SIGN LANGUAGE DOES NOT REPRESENT SPOKEN LANGUAGE AND HAS ITS OWN GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE
- SIGN LANGUAGE IS NOT UNIVERSAL, DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENT SIGN LANGUAGE
- NOT ALL DEAF PEOPLE WEAR HEARING AIDS OR USE SIGN LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATE
- DEAF PEOPLE CAN READ, WRITE, DRIVE, WORK, ETC., AS MANY OTHER PEOPLE
- A LACK OF HEARING DOESN'T MEAN LACK OF INTELLIGENCE

www.deafumbrella.com

---

## DEAF AWARENESS TRAINING FOR YOUR STAFF

---

With our Deaf Awareness Training course you will take a step towards a more inclusive world. Discover the profound and positive impact it has on the community while reducing unintentional discrimination.

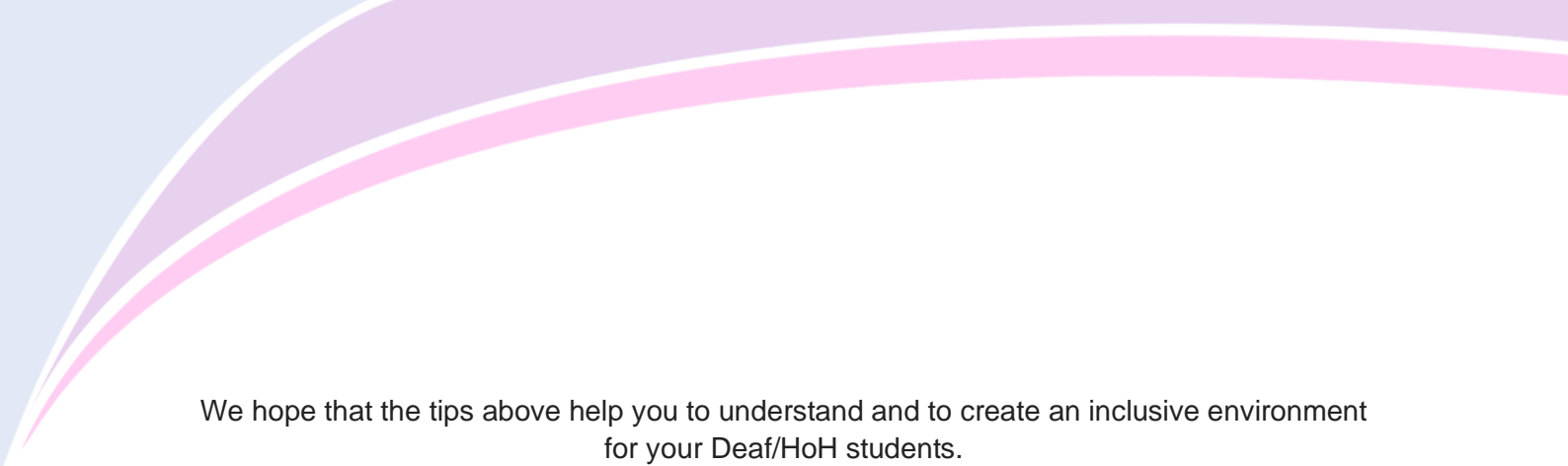
### Course Highlights:

- Increase awareness of Deaf culture.
- Develop a deep understanding of deafness.
- Learn effective communication with your deaf student(s).

**Bonus:** Book a Communication Support Worker (CSW) with us, and we will deliver the training course for **FREE!**



[CONTACT US >>](#)



We hope that the tips above help you to understand and to create an inclusive environment for your Deaf/HoH students.

This is a great opportunity for both you and your students to access and learn from Deaf culture. Your positive attitude can help ensure an excellent experience for all, and really make a difference.

Feel free to contact us if you need further support or advise.

**Deaf Umbrella Ltd.**

Email: [office@deafumbrella.com](mailto:office@deafumbrella.com)

Phone: 0333 700 7474

Mobile: 07786 965998

[www.deafumbrella.com](http://www.deafumbrella.com)