

DEAF AWARENESS TIPS!

By following our 8 basic tips, you can make a difference when communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing

● MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THEIR ATTENTION

Before you begin talking, have their full attention.

● MAKE SURE THE ROOM IS WELL LIT

A well illuminated room helps a deaf person to understand what you are saying.

● LEARN SOME BASIC SIGN LANGUAGE

Having even a basic knowledge of BSL is a great way to communicate with a deaf person. Fingerspelling is a good place to start.

● FACE THE PERSON & GIVE EYE CONTACT

Make sure that you face the person you are talking to and maintain eye contact. Making your mouth visible also increases understanding.

● CHECK THEY UNDERSTAND YOU

Make sure that the person is following what you are saying. Adjust your method of communication if not.

● DON'T SHOUT

Maintain a normal volume when talking. It can be uncomfortable for a hearing aid user if you shout.

● USE PLAIN LANGUAGE

Use plain language that is easy to understand. Complicated words are often harder to lip read.

● SPEAK ONE AT A TIME

Make sure you wait your turn to speak. This helps the deaf person to understand and answer your questions directly.

Signature