



Transcript for the video: MCC - offering and asking for assistance: Deaf and hard-of-hearing

How would you introduce a student who is deaf or hard-of-hearing to a general education classroom?

It is important that you do not single them out of the rest and try to treat them as the rest of the class with some moderations.

It helps if you invite your hard-of-hearing student to sit at the front of the classroom if they want to, as it will help them learn.

Be sure that you are facing the classroom when you speak, not the whiteboard and be prepared to repeat and rephrase when necessary.

If you are organizing a group activity, help students who lip-read by positioning the group in a circle so that the deaf learner can see all the other participants as they speak.

One of the crucial ones is to make sure your students know that you are there for them and ask them for their opinion and what works for them and what approach would benefit them.

Respecting their choices is important.

How to communicate with people that are deaf or hard-of-hearing people with?

You have several great options for communicating with a deaf or hard of hearing person. The most common methods will be lip-reading and sign language, but you might also communicate through writing stuff on a paper or on your telephone or just use an interpreter... Whatever method you choose, there are some general rules to follow. However, the most important thing is to be polite and attentive.

Today you will find about how to start a communication with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Get the deaf person's attention before speaking.

Screaming out someone's name is never a good idea, whether they are deaf or hearing.

“(screaming her name): ŠPELA, ŠPELA, ŠPELA!”

Face the person in the eye and maintain eye contact. If you are looking directly at the person's eyes when you are speaking or signing both of you will better see each other's expression and your interaction will feel like it has gone 10 levels above in quality. It becomes easier and the other person can understand you more.

“So my family is a huge family, I have a lot of brothers and sisters and it is fun that every year we get together... “

“Please talk slowly “

“Sorry. So my family is a big family of eight people, I have a lot of brothers and sisters.

The next one is just writing things between you. We are in the modern age so we can use our phones, if maybe we are unable to understand each other we can always use our phones or just a piece of paper and write what we mean. It is always important not to give up even if you think that you do not understand each other just don't say things like - »i will tell you later or it doesn't matter« always finish the conversation.

“It's very good for me...”

“Sorry I don't understand you can you text me”

“Sure no problem”

Last but not least. Learning or using some basic sign language. You do not have to be fluent in it, but learning some basics shows appreciation for the culture and means that you are making a step forward and effort to include and interact with the deaf people or people that are hard of hearing. The last and the most important point is DON'T GIVE UP!

“Špela, can you teach me some basic sign language?”

“I Can. “

Few quick tips for the end:

- If you use written communication, make sure you are understood.
- Do not overemphasize your sentences
- Pictures and other visual aids may be helpful.
- Avoid excess background noise
- Be patient and relaxed.

Every individual is different that is why allow the other person to choose their form of communication and guide you through the conversation.

In general, just take advantage of technology, which can be very helpful with other visual aids or just typing or just make communication easier.

Sign language: Thank you for your attention

Resources:

How to communicate with someone with hearing loss. (2022, November 30). Hearing Link Services. <https://www.hearinglink.org/living/partners-children-family-hearing-people/how-to-communicate-with-someone-with-hearing-loss/>

How to communicate with someone with hearing loss. (2022, November 30). Hearing Link Services. <https://www.hearinglink.org/living/partners-children-family-hearing-people/how-to-communicate-with-someone-with-hearing-loss/>