

Communication Tips

1. Don't be afraid to ask

Ask the deaf person how they would like to communicate and don't just assume. There are a variety of ways to communicate and the person will tell you what works best for them. To get things started try communicating through basic gestures or use a pen and notepad.

2. Face to face communication

Communication with a deaf person will be enhanced if you ensure that you are standing where they can clearly see your face. Speak clearly without shouting, and with normal inflection and timing.

3. Use touch to gain attention

Attract the deaf person's attention before speaking to them or else they may not realise you are talking to them. A tap on the shoulder or a wave is acceptable.

4. Display visual information

Demonstrating an action would benefit everyone including deaf and hard of hearing athletes. For example, demonstrating the correct body posture for Cricket, or game tactics such as screening for Basketball.

You can also display information visually wherever possible, such as whiteboards, written notes, electronic signs, use of laptops/iPads and so on.

Additionally, videos of sporting events or team matches would also be helpful.



5. The importance of light

Always try and maintain a well lit environment and use lights (flash on and off) to gain a deaf person's attention, particularly when communicating with a large audience.

6. Confirm that your message is understood

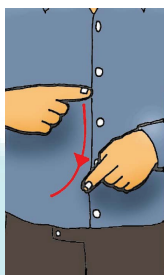
If a deaf person does not reply or seems to have difficulty in understanding, rephrase what you just said before moving on. A deaf person will usually confirm they understand what you are saying by a nod of the head and conversely you should do the same.

7. Learn Sports Specific Sign Language

There are a number of simple sport specific signs that the deaf/hard of hearing person could teach members of your club/team to assist with communication during matches and training.



SWIM



FAST



IMPROVE