



SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (D/HH)

1. Gain the listener's attention before speaking and confirm with eye contact.
2. Speak in a clear, natural voice.
3. Look directly at the listener when talking. This will allow her/him to speechread your face as well as listen.
4. Do not exaggerate lip movements.
5. Background noise causes a great deal of difficulty for listeners who are D/HH. Try to reduce or move away from noise sources whenever possible.
6. Hearing aids, cochlear implants and bone anchored hearing systems pick up sounds most efficiently at an arm's length away and are less effective at greater distances.
7. When you need to repeat a message, it is helpful to rephrase it instead of repeating it verbatim. This gives the listener more clues concerning the gist of your message, especially if there are some sounds in a word that are not audible to them.
8. Listening and trying to understand speech when you are D/HH requires greater concentration and can be fatiguing.
9. It is often helpful if the listener will repeat critical information (i.e. directions, time, date) for you, to ensure successful exchange of information.