



Deaf Culture & Understanding How to Work with People with diverse hearing loss

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Services**

HSDC

Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center



Mission

HSDC fosters inclusive, accessible communities through communication, advocacy, and education.

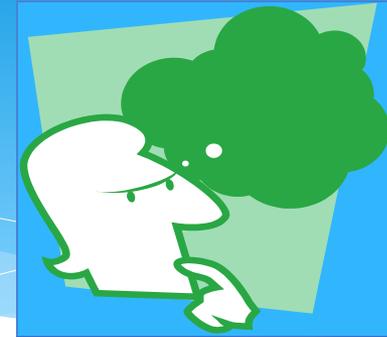
Who we are

We envision an inclusive, accessible world, where everyone is understood and respected.

Types of Hearing Loss

- * Hard of Hearing
 - * Deaf Blind
 - * Late Deafened
 - * Deaf
-
- * 48 million people in US have varying degrees of hearing loss and growing
(<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/basic-facts-about-hearing-loss>)

What do you call a person who can't hear?



- Which terminology is appropriate?
- Definitions
 - Deaf: “D” focus on a group of people who share a language (ASL), common life experience, history, and values (culturally deaf). Cultural association.
 - Late deafened: “d” lost all their hearing later in life after having had some hearing earlier in their lives.
 - Hard of Hearing: refers to those who have some hearing, are able to use it for communication purposes, who feel reasonably comfortable doing so.
 - DeafBlind: combination of varying degrees of both hearing and vision loss.
- Using an appropriate terminology is a good indicator of respect and understanding

Potential PsychoSocial Impact

- * Isolation; voluntary and involuntary
- * Experience as Disability
- * Feeling of diminished self-worth
- * Loss of connection through personal interaction with family, friends, co-workers
- * Feels like hearing loss is their fault; a burden on others (should not ask for help)

Hard of Hearing

- * **Consonants and/or vowel sounds**
- * **It is common for Hard of Hearing people to fill in the missing sounds by listening to the content of the conversation.**
- * **Female / Male voices**
- * **May use a regular phone, an amplified phone, voice carry over phone, etc.**
- * **Tips on communicating with Hard of Hearing people:**
 - **Repeat what you said.**
 - **Speak slowly and clearly.**
 - **Rephrase word, sentence, or question.**
- * **Each individual has a different type of hearing loss.**
 - **If they inform you on how you can communicate with them effectively, try their suggestions.**

Deaf Blind

- * Have various degrees of hearing and visual loss.
- * Large Deaf-Blind population in Puget Sound.
- * Usher's Syndrome, RP, MD, etc.
- * Tactile Communication
- * Lighting, clothing, etc.

Late Deafened

- * Became deaf later in age due to illness, accident or progressive hearing loss.
- * Has language already (post-lingual).



Deaf

- * Usually Deaf since birth or became Deaf at a very early age.
- * Learns “spoken” language as a second language (pre-lingual).
- * A Sign Language is naturally and easily learned.
- * Usually their first language (ASL in the US, and BSL in England).
- * Usually “taught” by parents, teachers, and/or friends.

Deaf

- * **96%** have hearing parents
- * Educational Backgrounds Vary
- * Communication Methods Vary
 - * ASL, SEE, PSE, Oral, Cued Speech, etc.
- * “Deaf” not “Hearing Impaired”
- * Rely heavily on technology such as TTYs and Videophones as communication/accessibility tools.

American Sign Language (ASL)

- * A linguistically complete language in a visual-gestural form.
- * Has its own vocabulary, idioms, grammar, and syntax that is different from the English language
 - * “GO STORE FINISH”
 - * ”TRAIN GO SORRY”
- * Consists of hand shapes, position, movement, and orientation of hands to the body
 - * MALE / FEMALE
 - * CAR – point A to point B

Our Unique Ways

Deaf people have a unique culture, one that is based on sight rather than sound. Consequently, our way of behaving and thinking usually revolves around sight. This collection provides a glimpse of how deaf people function in a society dependent on sound

Hearing



See



Touch



Taste



Smell



Hear

Deaf



See



Touch



Taste



Smell



Hear



Hearing World

- Overhear to get information
- Are constantly getting information (Tune Out)
- News is condensed to save time
- Rely on Sounds for Emergencies

American Disabilities Act

- * We have regulatory requirements: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title VI
- * Section 504 Rehabilitation Act
- * Guide us on whom to serve, and how
- * These laws create accessibility – ramps, elevators, interpreters, etc.
- * Federal Communication Commission (FCC) – 21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act

Interpreters?

- * Who can interpret?
- * Qualifications of interpreters – RID, degrees, specialized training.
- * Interpreters adjust their language to match Deaf person's needs. ASL, SEE, MLS, etc.
- * Specialization : SC:L, technology, medical, etc.
- * Do they interpret everything accurately?
- * Ask for Clarification
- * Deaf Interpreter

Communication Friendly

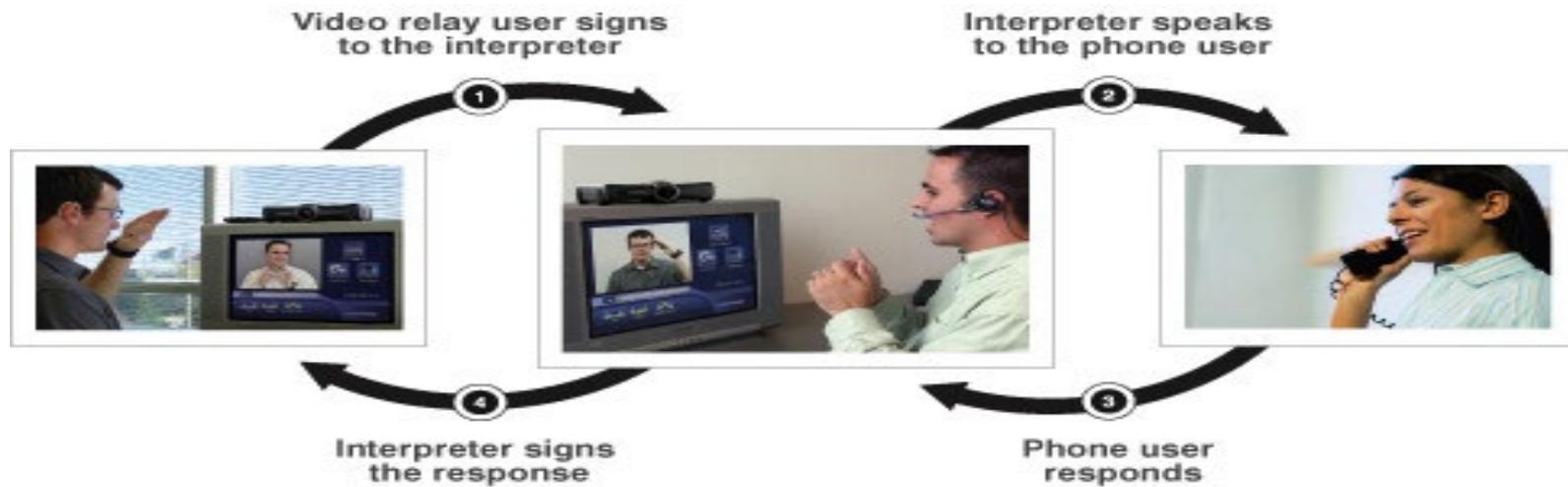
- * **Make written material readily available**
- * **Be willing and flexible to communicate in whatever ways work**
- * **Use everything at your disposal - writing/typing back and forth, texting, gesture, etc.**
- * **Be willing to take time to communicate**
- * **Create a team environment – let the Deaf person guide you. Ask them what their preferences are – they are the experts.**
- * **Enjoy the unique opportunity**



Visual Communication

- American Sign Language
- Facial Expressions
 - Gestures
- Body Language
- Universal Signs
 - Pointing

Technology: VRS / VP



Other Accommodations

- Assistive Listening Device
- Pocket talker
- Loop
- Real-time captioning
- TTY
- Voice amplified phone/ Captioned Telephone
- IP and TTY Relay service
- Ubi-Duo
- Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)
- E-mail
- Instant messenger
- Text
- Speech to text apps

Virtual Platform Etiquette

- * As a host, familiarize yourself with using spotlights and multi-pins as well as the virtual platforms (Zoom, MS Teams, Cisco, etc.)
- * AI captions vs Real-Time captions
- * Allow signers, interpreters, and captioners to have self-control with pins



The logo for HSDC (Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center) features the letters 'HSDC' in a large, bold, dark blue sans-serif font. The letters are set against a white rectangular background that is centered within a larger blue graphic element. This blue element has a curved top edge and a wavy bottom edge, resembling a stylized banner or a wave. The overall design is clean and professional.

Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center

www.hsdcc.org

Strengthening community by promoting effective communication.