



Social Skills



Deaf & Hard of Hearing DHH Tips for Teachers

Follow the links for more in-depth information.

Building Community

Making friends is hard! Add a communication barrier, and it compounds the difficulty. Things you can do:

- Choose agreeable and patient partners
- Give an extra measure of time for group work
- Provide communication tools like a [fingerspelling chart](#)
- Allow the interpreter to explain their role for interpreting among peers
- Hold the DHH student accountable for their portion of the work
- Encourage play vs isolation
- Keep groups small, the interpreter isn't part of the group
- Explicitly teach the skills for clear communication

🔗 Tips for Clear Communication

1. Always face the student you are addressing;
2. Make sure you have the student's attention before you start speaking;
3. Do not speak too loudly or exaggerate lip movements for the student who is lip-reading;
4. Repeat or rephrase the message if the student seems confused;
5. Write down the message you are trying to communicate;
6. Act out the message or use visual cues or symbols;
7. Do not become frustrated, aggravated, or say "never mind" when communication is difficult;
8. Look for activities where less talk is required, such as sports, puzzles, computers, or board games.



Just a friendly reminder to make sure all videos are accessible by turning on closed captioning or subtitles.