

## HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF

**1 Look at the person who is deaf when you are speaking.** Your speech will be clearer, and they will be able to use lipreading.

**2 Don't put your hand over your mouth, or turn your head away.**

**3 Don't shout.** It does not improve the clarity of what you are saying. It can be distressing to the person who is deaf.

**4 Speak reasonably slowly, but use normal intonation and pronunciation.** It is easier for the person who is deaf to pick up normal sounding speech.

**5 Use gesture, objects, facial expression and body language where possible.** But remember to keep looking at the person who is deaf.

**6 Write things down, eg names, changes of topic.**

**7 Avoid lengthy introductions.** Keep to essentials.

**8 Check from time to time that the deaf person is hearing what you are saying.**

**9 Be patient.** Repeat what you have said if necessary. And again, if necessary. Try different words. Repeat whole sentences, or phrases, not single words.

**10 Don't make decisions for the deaf person.** And ask them, not their partner/friend, even if you're just trying to make things easier for them.