

How to Effectively Communicate with Deaf Children and Young People



GET THEIR ATTENTION

Try waving or gently tapping their shoulder.

FACE THEM WHEN YOU ARE TALKING

Try to get down to their level so they can see your face clearly. Don't move around or turn away while talking.

SPEAK CLEARLY AND NATURALLY

Not too slowly or too loudly. Keep to a normal rhythm. Do not shout.



DO NOT COVER YOUR MOUTH

Covering your mouth with your hands, eating, while speaking can make lipreading difficult and will muffle the sound.

SPEAK ONE AT A TIME

Group/ whole class discussions can be difficult to follow.

STAND WITH YOUR FACE TO THE LIGHT

Standing by a window or in poor lighting makes it very difficult to lip read.

USE VISUAL CLUES WHERE POSSIBLE

Point at what you are talking about, use gestures and body language.

REDUCE BACKGROUND NOISE

Hearing aids and cochlear implants amplify all sounds, which means the listener must concentrate very hard on your voice to hear it over everything else.

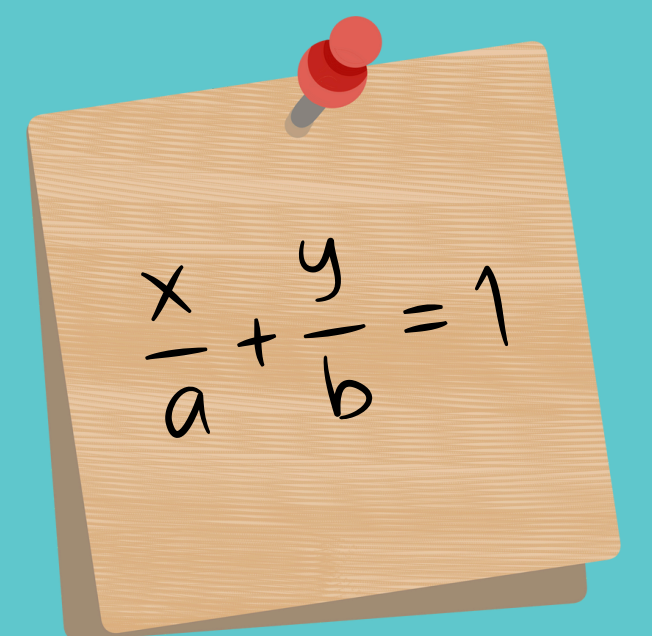
MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT THE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IS ABOUT

The listener will find it easier to guess your words if they know what you are talking about.

KEEP TRYING

If one method doesn't work, don't be scared to try another.

You could try writing it down or drawing a picture.



Please be patient.