

Communicating with Someone Experiencing Hearing Loss

Below are suggestions for communicating with someone who has experienced hearing loss:

- ☐ Before beginning to speak, get the attention of the person with the hearing loss
- ☐ Face the person and have the light on your face (in your eyes)
- ☐ Speak up, as clearly and naturally as possible, without shouting
- ☐ Do not overemphasize the speech sounds or talk in slow motion
- ☐ Cut out background noise by turning off the TV or radio
- ☐ Write down important information and directions
- ☐ Don't cover your mouth with your hand or an object
- ☐ Think about trimming a mustache and/or beard so lips are easier to read
- ☐ Rephrase a misunderstood sentence rather than repeat it
- ☐ Ask the person with the hearing loss to repeat vital facts
- ☐ When traveling by car, look at the person who is speech reading to the degree safety allows
- ☐ When going to a restaurant, choose a quiet, well-lit establishment where the noise is tolerable
- ☐ Ask for a table away from music speakers and in a corner, so the person with a hearing loss can sit against the wall to minimize background noise
- ☐ When in a group, clue the person into the conversation, the punchline, the context, and/or assist the person when topics change

If the listener does not understand you:

- ☐ Repeat what you said
- ☐ Slow down
- ☐ Speak slightly louder than normal
- ☐ Re-word or re-phrase (say it another way using common words)
- ☐ Present sentences in short units, breaking them down into "chunks" ("I went on a trip...with my daughter's class...to Ellis Island")
- ☐ Request feedback ("Tell me what you understood.")
- ☐ Write down some important words



Information Courtesy of the The Center for Hearing and Communication. For more information visit chchearing.org.



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