

Tips for Talking to the Deaf or Hard of Hearing



Face the deaf or hard of hearing person directly, and on their same level whenever possible.



Reduce background noise when conversing - turn off the radio or television.



Recognize that deaf or hard of hearing people hear and understand less when they are tired or ill.



Speak in a normal fashion without shouting. See that the light is not shining in their eyes. If a person has difficulty understanding something, find a different way of saying the same thing.



Keep your hands away from your face while talking. If you are eating, drinking, etc. your speech will be difficult to understand. Never talk from another room. Be sure to get the person's attention before you begin talking.

