

How to make your **Classroom** **deaf-friendly**

And raise money
for deaf children



There are more than 50,000 deaf children in the UK, and almost 80% go to mainstream schools where they may be the only deaf child.

Schools should be a positive and welcoming environment for every child, but for deaf children, there can be extra complications and concerns around communication.

This pack has tips to help your school become more deaf-friendly, along with ideas for fun activities to raise awareness. And if you'd like to raise money for our charity, we have lots of suggestions for how you can get involved.

Every penny you raise will help to transform deaf children's lives. From confidence-building events, to information and support for families, we are here to make sure deaf children get the same opportunities as their hearing peers.

If you need any further advice on supporting deaf children at your school, don't hesitate to contact our Freephone Helpline on **0808 800 8880** or helpline@ndcs.org.uk, or you can visit our website at www.ndcs.org.uk.

Deaf awareness tips

Every deaf child is different, with different levels of deafness and different preferences, but the tips below should be useful for communicating with all deaf children:

Find out how they communicate

Not all deaf children use British Sign Language (BSL). Every deaf child will have a preferred way of communicating, so find out if they use speech, BSL or a mixture of both.



Speak clearly and naturally

Deaf children will try to lip-read, so they need you to say words as you normally would. Speaking slowly or too loudly makes lip-reading much more difficult.

Use visual cues, where possible

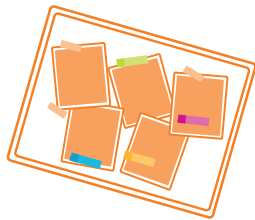
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Making your classroom deaf-friendly

Deaf children often face challenges with communication and it can be much easier for them to absorb information visually. The tools below can help deaf children to navigate their surroundings, new places, events and activities – and are fun for the whole group, deaf or hearing.

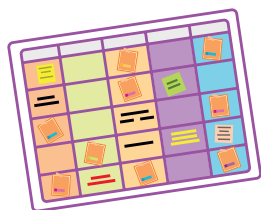
Who's who board

A who's who board is a simple way of helping a deaf child to learn people's names and find out their role in the group. Made up of photos and corresponding names, it's very simple to make and helpful for all children.



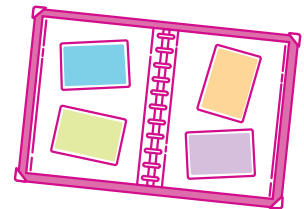
A visual timetable

A visual timetable, where activity images can be moved around a poster with time slots, can help explain to children which activities or events they are going to take part in and when. A different child could be responsible for it every week.



Visual aids for new events and places

In addition to sharing any guidebooks or online information, creating your own visual aids can be a great help to deaf children in your class. Fill a scrapbook or album with items including leaflets, tickets, photos of the event or place, and quotes from children who have previously attended.



Fun activities for your class

Grapevine

Ask everyone to stand in a line, all facing the same way. Fingerspell a word to the first child using a fingerspelling card. You can download this from www.ndcs.org.uk/schoolspack.



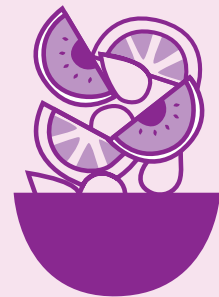
Fruit Salad

Sit the children in a circle and assign each child the name of one of three fruits; e.g. orange, banana and apple. Choose one child to be the signer and ask them to stand somewhere visible.

Watch the short video on our website to learn the signs for each fruit at www.ndcs.org.uk/schoolspack.

The standing child signs one of the three fruits using the signs included in the video, and each child with that fruit name must stand and try to get to another of the now vacant places. The signing child must try to steal a place too.

The last child standing must now take the place of the signer. Once the children have got the hang of the game and have gained confidence with the signs, get the signer to sign 'mix up' from the video and all the children have to change places and find a new seat.



Explain to the children that using gestures and facial expressions can help deaf child to understand what someone is saying.

Ask the children to suggest different ways they can communicate without using their voice. If needed, prompt them with examples like waving to say hello, or shaking your head to say no.

Then get the children into pairs, and ask them to take it in turns with their partner to use gestures and facial expressions to communicate the following phrases: →



Person A

- It's hot
- I'm hungry
- I don't know
- They're silly
- It's cold
- It's noisy

Person B

- I'm late
- I'm tired
- Where's my drink
- Good, well done
- Do you want a sweet

Ask children to discuss with their partner or in groups how they found the activity

Post-activity discussion

After the activity go through some of these questions:

- How do facial expressions help you to understand what the other person is communicating?
- Which phrases were the easiest to understand?
- Which phrases were the hardest to understand?

Lip-reading games

Explain to the group that when we speak our lips move and make shapes to form the words. Some deaf people watch your lips when you talk, and doing this can help them understand what you are saying. This is called lip-reading, or speech-reading.

Deaf people rarely rely on lip-reading alone to help them understand what is being said, but it can be useful when combined with gestures and facial expressions. This game will show how challenging lip-reading can be, and how much practice it takes to learn how to do it.

When communicating with a deaf person who's lip-reading:

- 1 Face the deaf person so they can see your mouth to lip-read.
- 2 Make sure you don't cover your mouth with your hands or any other object.
- 3 Speak clearly and carefully but normally. If you change how you speak it may make you more difficult to understand.

Get the children into pairs. Label them **A** or **B**.

Tell the children that **A** will be mouthing the words without using sound, and **B** will be lip-reading.

Person A

Mouth the following instructions to your partner without using your voice!

Can your partner follow the instructions?

- **Clap your hands.**
- **Touch your toes.**
- **Stick your tongue out.**
- **Blink your eyes.**
- **Scratch your chin**
- **Wiggle your fingers.**

Then swap roles so that B will be mouthing the words and A will be lip-reading

Person B

Mouth the following phrases to your partner without using your voice!

Can your partner repeat or write down what you have said?

- **I have eight green apples.**
- **Benny has 18 mugs.**
- **Penny has 18 bugs.**
- **I'm going to take a bath.**
- **I've got to take that path.**
- **I have five red apples.**

The children could also make up simple sentences and try them with their partner.

Fundraising activities

Now that your class is more deaf aware, why not try out some of our fundraising ideas? With your support, we can transform the lives of thousands of deaf children and their families - and make sure they have lots of opportunities to enjoy laughter, learning and fun.

We're also happy to chat if you'd like to share the money you raise between your school and the National Deaf Children's Society. Contact our team on community.fundraising@ndcs.org.uk or call 020 7014 1199.

Big Cake Bake

A who's who board is a simple way of helping a deaf child to learn people's names and find out their role in the group. Made up of photos and corresponding names, it's very simple to make and helpful for all children – deaf and hearing. Sign up today: www.ndcs.org.uk/bigcakebake



Dress Up Loud

Dress up in loud and bright clothes and raise awareness of deafness. Why not hold a fashion show or run a competition for the most outrageous outfit?

Get in touch for help, support and materials on community.fundraising@ndcs.org.uk or 020 7014 1199.



Fingerspellathon

Be a part of our Fingerspellathon fundraising event which is educational, inclusive and will raise deaf awareness at your school or group. It's also great fun!

Learn the fingerspelling alphabet with your pupils and they can be sponsored:

- to learn a set amount of words.
- per word they spell correctly.
- to complete our word hunt or word search activities.

You could also hold a guess the word competition – making a donation to take part, can the children guess what words are being fingerspelled by their teacher?

Sign up today : www.ndcs.org.uk/fingerspellathon





For further information on fundraising
get in touch [community.fundraising@
ndcs.org.uk](mailto:community.fundraising@ndcs.org.uk) or 020 7014 1199.



The National Deaf Children's Society is a registered charity in England
and Wales no. 1016532 and in Scotland no. SC040779. JR1556

