

# Supporting Your Deaf Child

## A Session for Families

Your child can learn.

Your child can communicate.

You are important.

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# Why is my child Deaf?

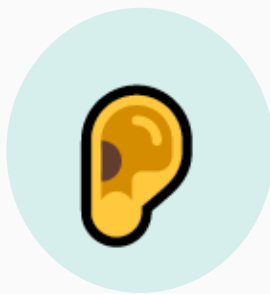
*Sometimes we know. Sometimes we do not know.*



Illness during  
pregnancy  
or infancy



High fever



Ear infections



Genetic causes



Unknown causes

**Deafness is not caused by bad parenting.**

Families do not cause deafness by something they did or did not do.

# What does every child need?

 Ask the families first — let them answer.



Food



Love



Family



School



Language

★ *Often missing*



**No water**

*Rice cannot grow.*

**No language →  
Learning is very difficult.**



**Water = Language**

*Rice grows.*

**Language →  
Children learn and grow.**

A child's brain is like a rice field.

**Language is the water.**

**Your family can give language every day.**

# Communication happens everywhere.



Cooking together



Feeding chickens



Going to market



Bathing



Sweeping / cleaning



Planting vegetables

# Step 1: Get your child's attention first.



Wave



Tap shoulder  
gently



Move into their  
visual field



Flash the light

 Deaf children use their eyes. Always make sure your child can see you before you communicate.

# Your face is a language.



**Smile**

*I am happy.  
Good job.*



**Surprise**

*Wow!  
Something new.*



**Concern**

*Are you okay?  
I am worried.*



**Point**

*Look.  
There it is.*

**You don't need to know sign language to start communicating. Your face already says so much.**

# Show. Share. Repeat.



## Show

Show your child what you are doing.  
Let them watch. Let them help.



## Share

Share the experience together.  
Cooking. Sweeping.  
Walking to market.



## Repeat

Use the same signs, gestures and words many times. Repetition builds language.

# Your family already has a language.



Many families create their own signs and gestures at home.

**These home signs are a wonderful start.**

### ✓ Home signs show

- Your child is already communicating
- Your family is already connecting
- You understand each other

### The school can help by...

- Adding more signs your child can use
- Connecting home signs to LSL signs
- Helping your child talk to more people



# What does a hearing aid do?

### ✓ A hearing aid...

- Makes sounds louder
- Helps some children hear speech
- Helps with environmental sounds
- Different children benefit differently

### ✗ A hearing aid does not...

- Cure deafness
- Create normal hearing
- Replace language and interaction
- Work the same for every child

**Hearing aids work best alongside communication, interaction and language — not instead of them.**

# Every child can communicate.



Speech



Signs



Gestures



Pictures



Objects



A combination

There is no single 'correct' way. The goal is connection.

# The most important teacher is the family.

Talk with your child

Sign with your child

Play with your child

Share everyday experiences



*Every interaction helps language grow.*

# We work together for your child.



## The School

- Teaches signs and language
- Provides structure and routines
- Develops literacy
- Supports social connections
- Tracks language growth



Your  
child



## The Family

- Gives love and belonging
- Shares daily life and routines
- Uses home signs and gestures
- Reinforces school vocabulary
- Knows the child best



When school and family work together, children make much faster progress.

# Five things to remember.



- 1 Your child can learn and communicate.
- 2 Language is the most important gift you can give.
- 3 Communication happens in everyday life — not just school.
- 4 Home signs and gestures are a wonderful start.
- 5 Every interaction — big or small — helps language grow.

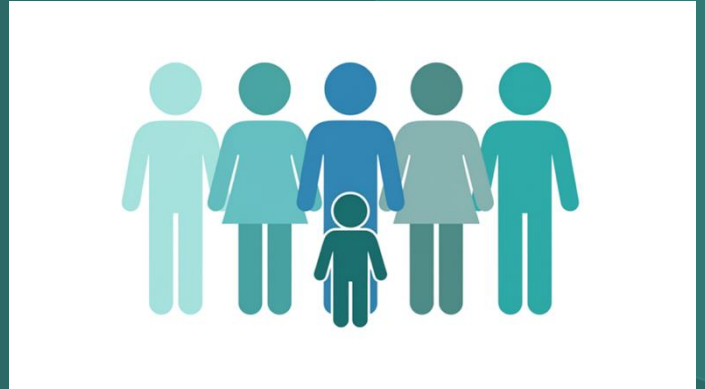
You are not alone.

**The school is with you.**

Your child needs you.

**And you are enough.**

*Thank you · ຂອບໃຈ*



**Questions?**