

**Deaf
Awareness
Week 2022**



MAY 2-8

INCLUSION DEAFNESS



DEAF AWARENESS WEEK 02-08 MAY 2022

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- ▶ Deafness is not a visible condition.
- ▶ Deaf and hard of hearing individuals can feel:
 - ▶ misunderstood
 - ▶ unseen
 - ▶ invisible
 - ▶ isolated.

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Deaf too often goes hand-in-hand with other invisible challenges.

**People can struggle with their mental health.
There can be discrimination in the workplace.
Legislation fails to consider the deaf perspective.**

Underrepresented groups become lost.

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- ▶ That's why this Deaf Awareness Week (2–8 May 2022) we are focusing on Inclusion Deafness, to explore the theme of inclusion within our community.
- ▶ We'll highlight the importance of mental health, increase visibility of underrepresented groups, and raise serious issues of Deaf being overlooked within education and the workplace.

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- ▶ Thank you for joining our work and for helping us to create a deaf friendly society where everyone is recognised, valued and appreciated.
- ▶ We offer you now a few tips on talking to a Deaf person.

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When talking to a deaf person...

Useful Tips for Deaf Awareness
Week 02–09.05.2022

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SMILEY



- ▶ Have a ready smile for your Deaf friend!
- ▶ If you are happy to see them – shine your face with a BIG smile!
- ▶ Deaf people are very visual and be sure they will pick up any emotions you may think you are hiding

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Do not shout!



- ▶ Shouting distorts your voice and lip patterns – speak clearly, with normal speech rhythms.
- ▶ Check that the Deaf is looking before you start to speak.

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Light!

- ▶ Deaf people need light to communicate clearly read signs, facial expressions and body language
- ▶ so make sure you have plenty of light in dark or darkened room



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Do not shadow your face



- ▶ Standing in front of the light source will shadow the face.
- ▶ Making sure the light is on your face makes it easier for the lip-reader
- ▶ Don't speak with bright light behind you – your face will be in shadow

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Do not cover
your mouth



- ▶ Don't cover your mouth in any way
- ▶ Make sure Deaf person can clearly see your lips
- ▶ Face the Deaf!
- ▶ Don't put anything in your mouth whilst talking

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Remember your
lips are being read

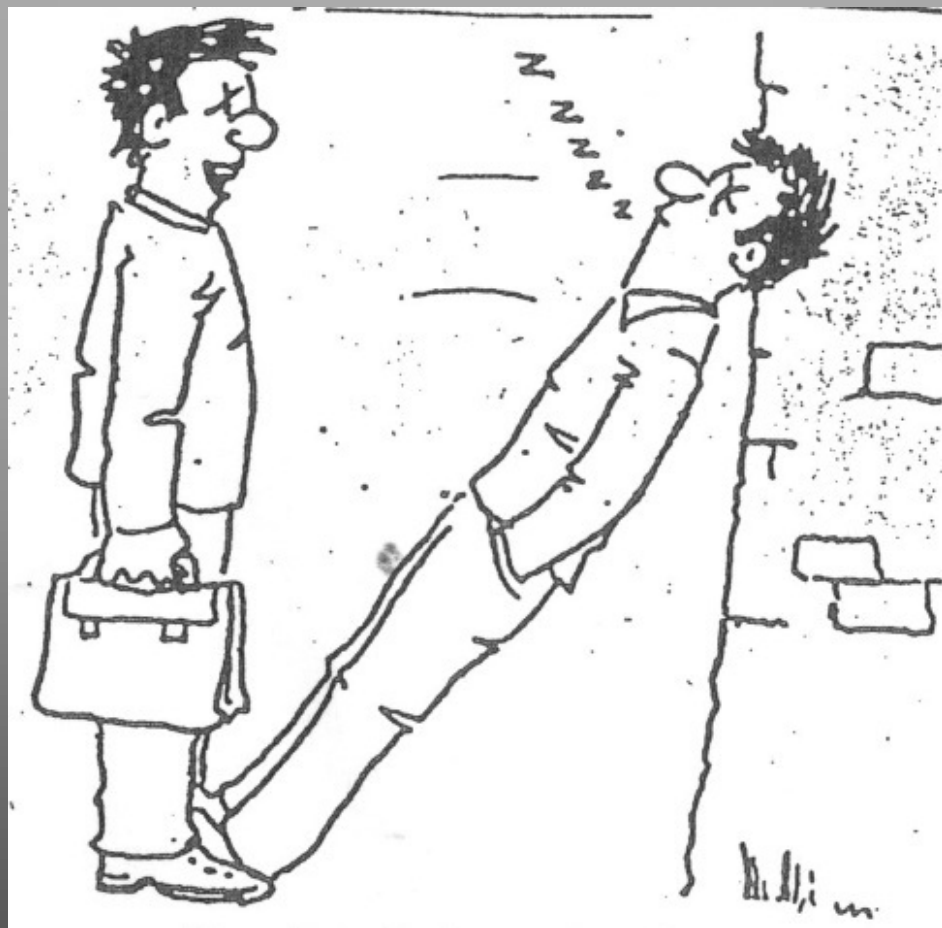


- ▶ Make sure your lip patterns are clear
- ▶ Do not exaggerate your lip patterns
- ▶ Speak normally

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Not Too Slow!

- ▶ Do not talk too slowly either!
- ▶ You may put Deaf asleep
- ▶ They might be Deaf but not Dumb!



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Keep Distance and Keep Still



- ▶ Face the Deaf person you are communicating with
- ▶ Keep about 1m apart
- ▶ Stand still while you speak
- ▶ No bouncing!

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Gestures may help

- ▶ If not sure the Deaf person understood – feel free to point your fingers!
- ▶ Pointing and touching Deaf person is not considered rude in Deaf world.



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Take Turns



- ▶ Be kind to the Deaf person and their Communicator make sure you do not speak all at once!
- ▶ Ensure that the Deaf person during seminars take turns when having discussions/ contributions

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Participation

- ▶ If you are having group sessions or meetings ensure Deaf person is involved
- ▶ If there are few groups taking place simultaneously ensure Deaf person is aware of that and topic of each group



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New Topic – WHAT??



- ▶ If you change the subject, make sure deaf person knows
- ▶ Try not to jump between the topics or involve too many digressions
- ▶ Coherency!

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Do not give up!

- ▶ Do not be afraid to ask deaf to repeat
- ▶ Be patient
- ▶ Give the Deaf person time to reply and don't turn away too soon



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If stuck –
write down



- ▶ Good old-fashioned way: almost always turns reliable!
- ▶ Use the pen or board!
- ▶ New fashion: Use your phone note app to type too!

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INVOLVE DEAF IN TEAM!

- Do not overlook deafness!
- Include the Deaf person.
- Explain what is happening.
- Tell them what you are talking about.
- Let them SEE what you are saying.

