

## Communicating with Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

- Well lighted area without too much glare
- Ask the person what is their preferred way of communicating
- Be aware it takes more time to communicate
- Lip Reading is very difficult, 75% of the words look same on the lips
- Be prepared with a pencil or pen and paper to write back and forth
- If person does not understand:
  - Rephrase what you said
  - Use different words that means the same.

## How to use American Sign Language Interpreter

- Be in well lighted area without glare
- Consider moving to a quiet area
- Try to maintain direct eye to eye contact with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Person
- Speak directly to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing person
- Avoid speaking " tell him or her" to interpreter instead of speaking directly to Deaf and Hard of hearing person
- Be mindful of your voice and tone, not too loud or soft.

## How to get a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Person's Attention:

- Go up to the person and tap gently on the shoulder and the person should turn to your attention.
- If you are trying to get a Deaf or Hard of Hearing group attention, do the following:
  - Turn on and off the lights a few times
  - Stomp on floor and wave hands same time to direct their attention to you.
- If there's two people having conversation, just wave your hands and be sure get eye contact of the person you want to speak with.

## Helpful tips about language use:

- Be mindful of your English when writing, just use simple words.
- If you notice the Deaf or Hard of Hearing's person English is rather odd, it's because English is not their first language
- It's ok to gesture with the person and use facial expressions which are an important part of American Sign Language's grammar
- Be mindful of what you say; American Sign Language may not translate to English very well and vice versa