

Cued Speech

The cued speech method of communication is an adjunct to straight lipreading. It uses hand signals to help the hearing-impaired child to distinguish between words that look alike when formed by the lips (e.g., mat, bat). It is most commonly employed by hearing-impaired children who are using speech rather than those who are nonverbal.

Sign Language

Sign language, such as **American Sign Language (ASL)** or **British Sign Language (BSL)**, is a visual-gestural language that uses hand signals that roughly correspond to specific words and concepts in the English language. Encourage family members to learn signing, because using or watching hands requires much less concentration than lipreading or talking. Also, a symbol method enables some hearing-impaired children to learn more and to learn faster.

Speech Language Therapy

The most formidable task in the education of a child who is profoundly hearing impaired is learning to speak. Speech is learned through a multisensory approach using visual, tactile, kinesthetic, and auditory stimulation. Encourage parents to participate fully in the learning process.

Additional Aids

Everyday activities present problems for older children with hearing impairment. For example, they may not be able to hear the telephone, doorbell, or alarm clock. Several commercial devices are available to help them adjust to these dilemmas. Flashing lights can be attached to a telephone or doorbell to signal its ringing. Trained hearing ear dogs can provide great assistance, because they alert the person to sounds, such as someone approaching, a moving car, a signal to wake up, or a child's cry. Special teletypewriters or telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD or TTY) help hearing-impaired people to communicate with each other over the telephone; the typed message is conveyed via the telephone lines and displayed on a small screen.*

Any audiovisual medium presents dilemmas for these children,