



BLUEPRINT

COACHES

**LEVEL THE
PLAYING
FIELD FOR
INCLUSION**

**BLUE
PRINT**

Deaf
Children
Australia.

10 THINGS COACHES AND INSTRUCTORS SHOULD KNOW TO HELP DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING KIDS FEEL ACCEPTED AND INCLUDED

Introduce yourself

Let the child and family know who's who at your club, especially people they'll be seeing regularly - like coaches or admin staff. It can help to wear name badges.

Find out how best to communicate with the child

DHH kids use various ways to communicate, including signs, speech, and lip reading. Ask the child or family what communication methods are best.

"When I'm in the studio, my hearing aids pick up sound from the speakers and help me hear the beats of the music."

AMELIA, HARD OF HEARING DANCER

Learn some helpful Auslan signs

Knowing a few Auslan signs can make communication easier. You might like to learn signs for 'hello', 'this way', 'go', 'stop', and 'time out'. See our guide on how to make some common signs.

Team rules

Make written copies families can take and read. You might also like to display team rules on a poster.

Face the child when you're speaking

It's easier for a DHH child to understand you when they can see your face. Speak clearly, without shouting.

"My coaches know to turn and face me so I can read their lips and to speak a little louder."

EJ, DEAF TENNIS PLAYER

Use visual aids

Visual representations like photos and images can help kids understand and follow instructions. Referees can use visual signals like flags or waving to gain attention during competition.

Write your lesson plan on a whiteboard

This will help all the kids in your group or team know what to expect during the session.

Act out your instructions

Support verbal instructions with demonstrations and other gestures like nodding or head shaking.

Did you know more than 50% of parents of a deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) child worry about them taking part in local community clubs? These tips can help us smash that figure to zero!

Make eye contact

When you're speaking with a DHH child, it's important to make sure you have their attention and gain eye contact before speaking. A good way to do this is to crouch down to the child's eye level.

"My coach makes sure I'm in front of the group every training session."

TOM, DEAF AFL PLAYER

Check everyone has understood your instructions

Check to make sure the child has understood you. If they seem confused, try rephrasing or use another communication method - such as a demonstration or written instructions.

"After I've discussed the session with the whole group, I'll spend a bit of time with him one-on-one."

SEB, WHO COACHES DEAF SWIMMER NICK

Find out more

Like to learn more about how you can become an inclusion champion in your community? Here are some helpful links.

[Deaf Children Australia](#)

[Flying Colours - developed by Deaf Children Australia](#)

[Sport Inclusion Australia](#)

[Australian Sports Commission](#)

[Disability Sports Australia - has information about creating inclusive clubs](#)

[Special Olympics Australia - find information about inclusive sport in schools](#)

[Reclink Australia - a national initiative creating inclusive sport and recreation programs.](#)

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