

STAFF

BLUEPRINT

**SETTING  
THE STAGE  
FOR  
INCLUSION  
AT YOUR  
CLUB**

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PRINT**

Deaf  
Children  
Australia.

## 10 THINGS CLUB STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS CAN DO TO HELP DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING KIDS FEEL AT EASE

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!

### 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.

“

I lip read occasionally but I pretty much always rely on hearing aids.”

**EWEN, HARD OF HEARING SEA SCOUT**

### Learn some everyday Auslan signs

Knowing a few Auslan signs can make communication easier. You might like to learn signs for 'hello', 'welcome', 'this way', 'please read this' and 'thank you'. See our guide on how to make some common signs.

### Have a map of your facilities handy

You can use a map to point children and families in the right direction. Include the locations of things like the toilets, kiosk, and pick-up/drop-off areas.

### Have copies of your 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 teachers and coaches turn to me and face me so I can read their lips.”

**EJ, DEAF TENNIS PLAYER**

### 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.

### Crouch down to the child's eye level

Eye contact and non-verbal communication are easier when you're at the child's level.

### Check for understanding

Confirm that the child has understood you. If they seem confused, try rephrasing or use another communication method – such as a demonstration or written instructions.

### Have an inclusion statement

This shows your club values diversity and is committed to building an inclusive culture. Read more about creating an inclusion statement at Play by the Rules.

**Deaf Children Australia.**



### **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**

this national not-for-profit organisation is dedicated to supporting families with a DHH child through their range of resources, programs, services and events.

#### **Flying Colours**

developed by Deaf Children Australia, this site has heaps of info about navigating life with a DHH child.

#### **Sport Inclusion Australia**

a national sporting organisation dedicated to promoting inclusion of people with an intellectual disability into the mainstream community through sport.

#### **Australian Sports Commission**

this Australian Government commission has an inclusive sports hub packed with tools and resources to help clubs recognise, understand, and celebrate inclusion and diversity.

#### **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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## DID YOU KNOW?

Around 95% of DHH children are born into hearing families, who often feel isolated and confused. We help them navigate their new world.

Blueprint isn't just for sports clubs. If you offer activities or programs for children or young people, we'd love to have you on our side!

For further information about Deaf Children Australia.

[www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au](http://www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au)

**03 9539 5300**

[info@deafchildren.org.au](mailto:info@deafchildren.org.au)

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Deaf Children Australia uses the term 'deaf' to refer to all degrees and types of hearing loss.  
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