

12 WAYS DEAF ADULTS VISUALLY INTERACT WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Attention

1 ELICIT ATTENTION WITH EYEGAZE
EXAMPLE: move your eyes in the child's line of vision to elicit attention

2 USE POINTING FOR REFERENCE
EXAMPLE: point to object to direct child's attention

3 COMBINE KINESTHETIC, TACTILE & VOCAL STIMULATION
EXAMPLE: tap and wave in child's line of vision

Parentese

4 SIGN IN SLOWER TEMPO
EXAMPLE: sign HAPPY slowly

5 REPEAT SAME WORDS
EXAMPLE: sign HAPPY multiple times in a row

6 EXAGGERATE MOVEMENTS
EXAMPLE: sign HAPPY big and with extremely wide eyes

Joint Attention

7 FOLLOW CHILD'S LEAD
EXAMPLE: start an interaction with a toy a child looks at with interest

8 PROVIDE TIME TO EXPLORE
EXAMPLE: allow child time to explore before initiating or continuing an interaction

9 ENGAGE IN SEQUENTIAL INTERACTION
EXAMPLE: be sure the child is looking at you before initiating a conversation about a toy; if the child breaks eye contact, pause until the child returns their eye gaze back to you

Shared Reading

10 KEEP BOTH LANGUAGES VISIBLE
EXAMPLE: have the book on your stomach facing out to the child and use miniature signs on the book

11 USE ATTENTION MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES
EXAMPLE: tap child lightly and shift book to attract attention

12 ADJUST SIGN PLACEMENT TO FIT THE STORY
EXAMPLE: sign on the book or child

