



Your Deaf Child's Intelligence is Not Fixed



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Introduction

- What is the first thing that goes through parents' minds when they find out their child is deaf?
 - Shock, anger, denial, grief, worry, fear
- Often, the "first" deaf person parents meet is their own child
- Majority of medical professionals apologize and then inform parents: ¹
 - Your child "failed" her/his hearing test
 - Your child may have limited opportunities in life
- Do not let anyone set limits for your child
 - S/he can do anything s/he wants to do!
- There are unlimited opportunities with options
 - Visual and audio technologies
- As a parent:
 - Support your child by accepting her/his hearing status
 - Research all possible options for her/his success
- Keep in mind: ¹
 - Your child did not "lose" her/his hearing
 - Her/his life is not filled with the loss that you may be feeling
- Your deaf child's intelligence (IQ) is NOT based on being deaf nor is it fixed for life ²

Visual Learners

- Understand that your Deaf child may need additional support and different strategies
 - Process information differently
- Know that your deaf child is a VISUAL learner ⁶
 - Use their eyes instead of their ears
- Use visual learning strategies when you notice your deaf child is not paying attention or understanding what is happening



Conclusion

- Now you know the truth about your child's IQ
- Your child has the cognitive flexibility to acquire and expand IQ
- Encourage your child to explore and discover her/his passion
- Find what motivates your child to learn
- Make the best of your child's learning potential to empower her/himself and others when gaining knowledge
- Maximize your child's potential
 - Let your child know s/he can do anything but hear

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Different Definitions of IQ

- Thinking and IQ will depend on life experiences ³
- Biological make up and environment influence each other ⁴
- IQ is NOT fixed at birth, NOT set in stone, NOT even related to genetic make up
- VERY flexible - will depend on how you set expectations for your child ^{3,4}
- Different kinds of intelligence – e.g., multiple intelligences ⁵

Visual Learning Strategies

- Establish visual eye gaze and later joint attention for communication and language development ⁷
- Provide contingent and reciprocal dialogue where you follow the lead of your child's conversational interests ⁸
- Provide world knowledge and experience that is visually accessible
- Use short utterance with different facial expressions, tone/pitch, and emphasis on words ⁹
- Provide early access and exposure to language

Multiple Intelligences



Correspondence & Acknowledgments

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