

Deaf people love to talk!



New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) is most Deaf Kiwi's preferred language. Here are some helpful tips for communicating with a Deaf person.

Do:

- Use the terms Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Point and use objects around you to clarify your point
- Learn NZSL - even a few basic signs makes a difference
- Use your phone, or pen and paper, to communicate your message
- Ask if the Deaf person has a preferred interpreter
- Maintain eye contact



Don't:

- Use the terms hearing impaired, dumb or mute
- Cover your mouth and obstruct lipreading
- Think NZSL is 'English on the hands' or only for Deaf people
- Say things like: "it doesn't matter", "I'll explain later", "it's not about you"
- Run an event without an interpreter
- Shout



Learn more at nzsignlanguage.nz