

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING LOSS

By Carrie Scarff, Registered Audiologist, PhD.

- Get their **ATTENTION** before you start speaking.
 - Say their **NAME** or gently touch them on the shoulder or arm if appropriate. This allows their brain to “get ready to listen”
- **SLOW DOWN** your speech and **SPEAK CLEARLY**.
 - Repeat what you’ve said in a **DIFFERENT WAY** instead of just talking louder (which can distort their speech and mouth movements)
- **REDUCE DISTRACTIONS** by turning down the TV, music or moving to a quieter location
 - **BACKGROUND NOISE** makes listening with hearing loss much more difficult
- **FACE THEM** and **MOVE IN CLOSER** when you are speaking to them
 - They can benefit from **READING YOUR LIPS** and your facial expressions and body language
- **WRITE** down words on paper or on your phone or iPad if needed
 - Write down the **IMPORTANT WORDS** to help clue them into the context
- **BE OPEN** to using a **DEVICE** to help them if they have one, a microphone or FM for example
 - Generally you simply need to **SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE** and the sound will get picked up by their hearing aid or headset

This information is provided by Dr. Carrie Scarff, Registered Audiologist in Alberta, Board member of Deaf & Hear Alberta. Dr. Carrie Scarff, and her colleagues Elan Feldman, Registered BC-HIS, and Eleese Llewellyn, Registered HAP, are leaders in the field of hearing loss care. They are committed to working together with you to improve your hearing with the most effective resources available. For more information on these suggestions, visit www.audiologyinnovations.ca or by contacting them by phone at one of their two locations shown below.



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