

## Working with communications professionals

Some people who are deaf or deafblind rely on a communications professional, such as an interpreter, to communicate with others. This person will translate speech into British Sign Language (BSL), deafblind manual, or any other preferred communications method. If you are working with a communications professional for the first time, here are some helpful tips:

1. Give the interpreter time in advance to prepare. This could involve sharing your notes with them so they know what you are going to talk about. Remember, they are part of your team, so they won't be sharing your jokes!
2. Due to different language structures, the interpreter will sign the meaning, rather than signing each individual word.
3. A qualified interpreter must have a licence to practice from the NRCPD. It is a good idea to check this before you start working with them
4. When addressing the person who is deaf or hard of hearing, it is polite to face and direct to them, not the interpreter
5. An interpreter might pause the speaker and ask for clarification. This is important to ensure that the interpreter has a good grasp of what is said so they can translate correctly
6. Be aware of time delay - some forms of communications are very slow and you may have to pause every so often for the interpreter to catch up
7. Talk at a normal speed
8. Translating can be mentally tiring. It is ideal for an interpreter to have a break every 20 minutes
9. Remember you are working *with* an interpreter. Not, using one!

Contact us to find out more:



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