

Deafblindness and Communication



Communication

Communication is the expression of our feelings, needs, aspirations etc. to others. Through communication, understanding and relationship develops between people.

Communication is not just verbal or written. Body language and facial expressions are other methods of communication.

People with deafblindness and Communication

There are different ways to communicate. A common approach for coping with communication barriers in sensory impairments is to use other senses more. For example, a person with blindness can understand a lot by hearing and a deaf person by seeing. But people with deafblindness face obstacles on two fronts, and it is almost impossible to overcome these obstacles using common techniques. For this reason, people with deafblindness have to adopt different methods and this varies from person to person.

Here are different ways of to communicate with people with deafblindness:

Different ways to communicate with people with deafblindness



Sign Language



Tactile Sign Language



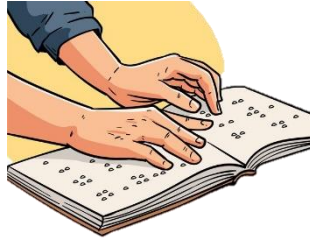
Signing in front of eyes



Writing on palm



Fingerspelling



Braille



Speaking



Gestures



Direction



Symbol (spoon symbolizing the time to eat)



Moon Code



Lip Reading



Tadoma or Tactile Lip Reading

Developing communication



From birth, a baby continuously attempts to communicate with its mother and family through crying, gestures, and other means. Simultaneously, it observes and learns communication methods from the surrounding environment.

But a child with deafblindness' access to information from the surrounding environment is very limited. They can't see what's going on around them like other children, they can't hear others talking and communicating; Outside of their bed, the world around them doesn't exist, or if it does, it's a blur.



They are unable to express their needs, unable to understand and follow social and family norms. In this case, it takes a lot of time, effort and patience to explain, teach and accustom them to everything. Also if they have multi-sensory impairment or other disabilities this can be even more challenging.

Developing Communication Skills of Children with Deafblindness

- Whenever a child with deafblindness will try to communicate with anyone, they should respond positively.
- The child should be given opportunities to do activities of their choice as much as possible.
- Observe and exploit other ways in which the child is meeting their sensory needs in the environment.
- The child should be given opportunities to use their learning.
- Children with deafblindness should be encouraged to communicate.
- According to the child's abilities, communication methods should be used that are easy and suitable for him. Mixing of different methods can also be done.

- Ensure that communication is not one-sided. Try to understand and explain to the child without showing a 'do what I say' attitude.
- Communication must be relevant. A child will lose interest when communicating about things he does not know or understand.
- The scope of communication should be gradually increased. Children with deafblindness should be given opportunities and encouragement to communicate with different people.
- Ensure a comfortable and safe environment for the child.
