

December Newsletter



How to Be Inclusive for Your Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Members Over the Holidays

Imagine being excited to see your grandparents, your cousins, and even your eccentric Uncle Frank during the holidays. When you enter the house, you're welcomed with warm hugs and greetings. The welcoming environment quickly comes to a halt when they start conversing with each other. At the dinner table, the family erupt in laughter and you, oblivious to what is going on – nudge your cousin Sue to let you know what was so funny.

“I’ll tell you later,” she says as she goes back to eating, continuing to talk rapidly with the rest of the family. For a time of family gatherings, the holidays can be extremely lonely for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in an all-hearing family. This feeling of neglect is very common for the lone D/HH family member and many of them will feel dread when the holidays are approaching. But it does not have to be this way.

Be that one family member to take steps to change that and start influencing others to be more mindful of the D/HH member at the family gathering. Here are some fabulous tips to be inclusive:

1. **When a D/HH person asks to be included in a conversation, do not**

- dismiss them.** Very often the person will experience dismissive comments like “It’s not that funny,” “It’s not that important,” and “I’ll tell you later.” When you dismiss the individual, you are relaying a message that he/she is not worthy to be part of the conversation.
2. **Research Apps you can download to assist with communication** Bring your tablet and install Apps such as [Text-to-Speech](#) or [LiveCaption](#). The apps will automatically translate in text of what is being said in the room. However, your family will have to be reminded to not talk on top of each other, slow down and speaking loudly enough for the tablet to pick up on the conversation.
 3. **Avoid candlelit dinners.** We know a dimly-lit dinner creates a cozy and magical atmosphere. It also will create an extremely challenging environment where your D/HH family member will struggle with lip-reading or facial expressions. When having a D/HH individual over, please make sure the rooms are bright.
 4. **Put on closed captions.** Many families have a tradition of watching sports or movies. Put on your closed captions so your one family member does not sit there unaware of what’s going on.
 5. **Avoid verbal-focused games.** Games like “Name that Tune” and “I Spy” is a verbal game that is guaranteed to leave your family member out. Opt to play visual-focused games like Pictionary and Charades. Instead of shouting out answers, be creative by writing down the answers on notepads or on a whiteboard.
 6. **Make eye contact when talking.** Whether this person reads lips or not, he/she will need your eye contact. Creating eye contact will let the family member know who is talking at the moment and makes it easier for lip-reading and facial reading.
 7. **Learn sign language.** This may seem like a big step to be inclusive, but it is a huge, positive impact you will make on the family member. Imagine the surprised look of happiness when he/she learns the members of the family are taking a class together to learn ASL. Your action will speak (or sign) in volumes. And what’s a better way to spread the holiday spirit? GCDHH offers [virtual ASL classes](#) for those interested.
 8. **Hire an interpreter.** Interpreters aren’t free but if you have the funds for it, you can go above and beyond by [hiring an interpreter](#) at the family gathering. You may even discover the true personality of your family member once you have the language barrier out of the way.

GCDHH CLIENT TESTIMONIAL:



AKEEM (JAMAL) DAGGETT

Akeem (Jamal) Daggett using his Tobii Dynavox I-110 speech equipment with his rehabilitation Technologist, Mark Ficocelli. Jamal received his equipment via the [Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program](#).



TEDP

ASL ONLINE CLASSES




American Sign Language is the 3rd most common language in the U.S. and a beneficial skill for everyday life. It is a rich & visual language used by the Deaf community. Don't just learn ASL, open your eyes to a whole new culture-Deaf culture!

AGES 14+ ARE WELCOME TO ASL VIRTUAL CLASSES!

LEARN FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE, TABLET, LAPTOP FROM HOME!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE COURSES



 ONE-ON-ONE ATTENTION TO EACH STUDENT

 INTERACTIVE ONLINE COURSES

 GAIN ACCESS TO AUTHENTIC SIGNERS

Register today!



VIRTUAL ASL CLASSES : \$80



VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS

ASL I 10AM-12PM EST

ASL II 1PM-3PM EST

ASL III 3:30PM-5:30PM EST

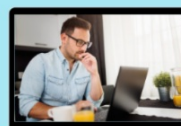
JANUARY 23, 30

FEBRUARY 6, 20, 27

MARCH 6, 13, 20

THIS IS A NON-CREDIT 2 HOUR COURSE FOR 8 SESSIONS, PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR CLASSES TO REGISTER

DEADLINE: JAN 13, 2021 WEDNESDAY @ NOON



GOT A QUESTION?



CONTACT ANDREA ALSTON
AALSTON@GCDHH.ORG



GEORGIA CENTER OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Prior to COVID-19, Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) offered American Sign Language (ASL) Courses in-person at the center. When the pandemic started, GCDHH took a new approach with virtual classes for ASL to respect safety concerns. Today, the remote classes are available for community (age 14 and up) and businesses. Below are upcoming available courses:

ASL I- Beginner

ASL II- Intermediate

ASL III- Advanced

*There will be eight two-hour long classes each semester.



The textbook is highly recommended for all ASL units- **A Basic Course in American Sign Language (Second Edition)**. This can be ordered via Amazon. GCDHH offers online ASL classes for children younger than 14 years old for one hour for eight sessions. We also offer private ASL one-on-one for a separate fee. At the end of the semester, a Certificate of Attendance will be given for those who participated. This is only for the proof of participation in ASL course and this does not count as certified for Sign Language Interpreter. If you wanted to become a certified interpreter, you would have to take Interpreting courses at any college/university that offers them.

If you are interested to learn American Sign Language, price inquiry or have questions, please email Community Coordinator, Andrea Alston at:

Aalston@gcdhh.org

404-381-8448

Register Now!

Did you know you can sign up your workplace for virtual American Sign Language Classes?

GCDHH offers customized ASL classes for businesses and workplaces. With a flat rate (prices are negotiable), your company can pick the hours and multiple dates for virtual ASL classes. You and your co-workers will take sessions and practice together on learning a new language. If interested, you can bring this available course to the attention of your management and contact us at Aalston@gcdhh.org. Your company can make a difference in language accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community!

Fill out Questionnaire



GCDHH PRESENTS

SIGNING SANTA

FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE D/HH AT
GEORGIA STATE OR PUBLIC SCHOOL

Call Lara Whitfield at 404 381 8447 or email at
lwhitfield@gcdhh.org to reserve time slot
from Dec 15th-17th 9am-2pm.

EVENT WILL BE
VIA ZOOM OR VP

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gcdhh

**GCDHH will feature
Signing Santa for
schools this
December.
Contact Lara
Whitfield at
lwhitfield@gcdhh.org
to reserve your spot!**

Literacy FRIDAY



GCDHH is hosting "Literacy Friday"
every second Friday of the month
starting this month. There will be a new
children's story posted to GCDHH's
Facebook page and Kid's Zone. Be sure
to check them out!

GCDHH
Facebook

GCDHH Kid's
Zone

Follow us on Social Media!



[View Email as Webpage](#)

