

# Deaf Awareness

September 20, 2023





Source: <https://deafchildren.org/2021/09/asl-resources-deaf-awareness-month-sept-2021/>

# Cultural Tip to know: Deafness Spectrum

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- “Deaf” with a capital ‘D’
  - People who are “Deaf” with capital ‘D’ identify themselves as culturally Deaf and are heavily part of the Deaf community. They do not view deaf as a disability and dislike to be labeled as hard-of-hearing.
- “deaf” with a small ‘d’
  - On the other hand, people who are “deaf” with small ‘d’ are usually hard-of-hearing with either hearing aids or cochlear implants. Deaf is seen as a disability and “loss of hearing”.

Source: <https://www.startasl.com/what-does-d-d-and-d-deaf-mean-in-the-deaf-community/>

## Offensive!

- Hearing-Impaired
- Deaf and Dumb
- Deaf-Mute

## Words of Wisdom from National Association for the Deaf (NAD):

“Deaf and hard of hearing people have the right to choose what they wish to be called, either as a group or on an individual basis. Overwhelmingly, deaf and hard of hearing people prefer to be called “deaf” or “hard of hearing.” Nearly all organizations of the deaf use the term “deaf and hard of hearing,” and the NAD is no exception.”

# Audism

Definition:

*“describe a negative attitude, just like discrimination or prejudice or lack of willingness to accommodate against individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing”.*

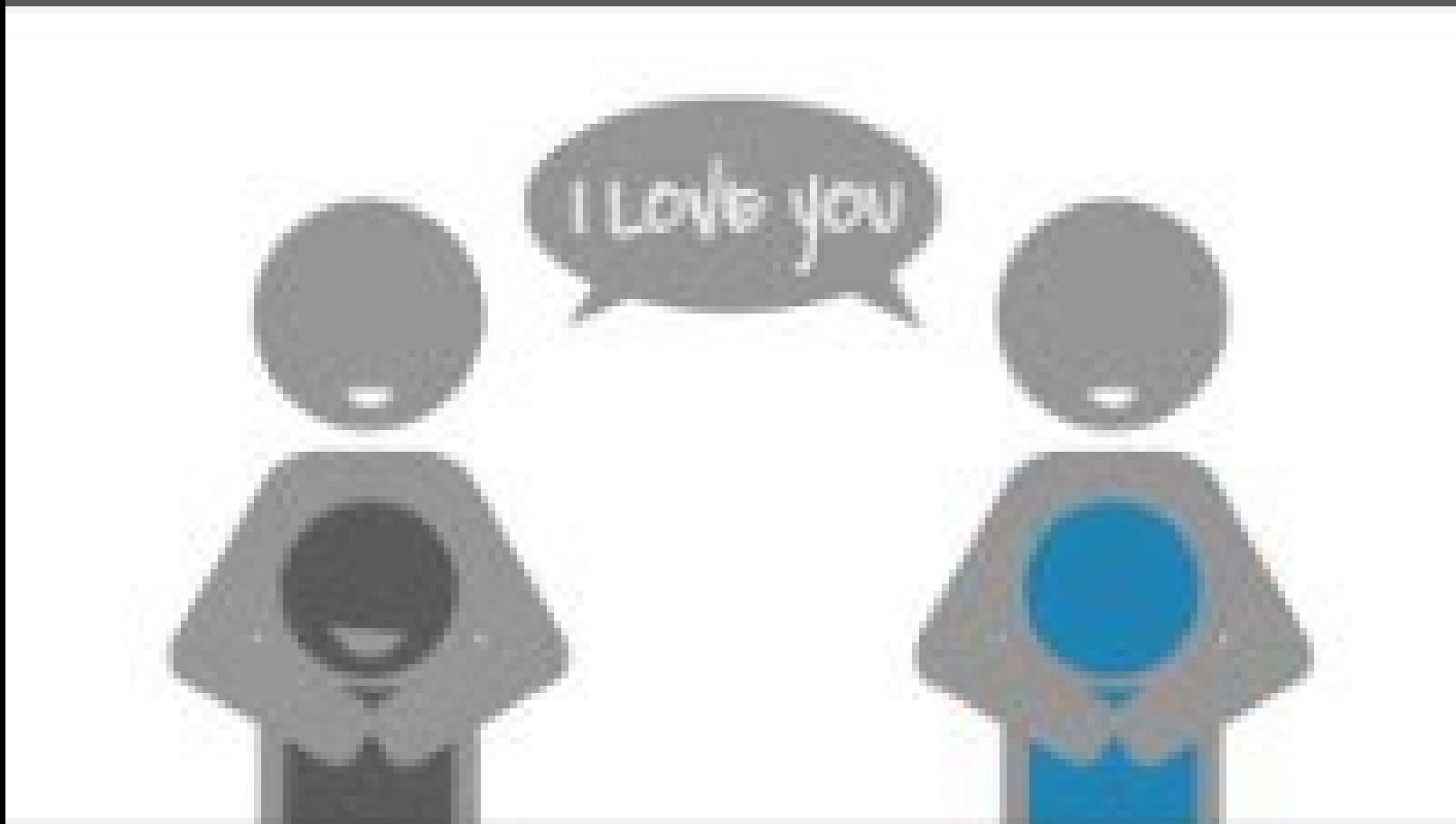
*“people who can hear are superior to those who can't hear and a person who follows that belief is called an audist”.*

Good video to review on own: [What is Audism?](#)



**AUDISM #4 - PATRONIZING DEAF/HOH ABILITIES**

# Learning Deprivation



# Incidental Learning

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- Incidental learning might be defined as what a person learns through informal communicative interactions with others in public and educational settings. For children who can hear, incidental learning constitutes a major portion of their social development and world knowledge. However, for the deaf child, even though surrounded by this type of learning, it is often not accessible.



# Tokenism & Cultural Appropriation

- Tokenism is defined as:

"The practice of hiring or appointing a token number of people from underrepresented groups such as women, Black people, Deaf, people, etc. in order to give an appearance of fairness or diversity." -- merged definitions.

"Tokenism is, simply, covert racism. Racism requires those in power to maintain their privilege by exercising social, economic and/or political muscle against people of color (POC). Tokenism achieves the same while giving those in power the appearance of being non-racist and even champions of diversity because they recruit and use POC as racialized props."

Source: <https://www.handspeak.com/learn/378/>



## Example of Tokenism:

- A hearing owner/creator recruits Deaf/HH to the positions within an Deaf/ASL-related organization or company and maintains all the power and the share of profit.
- **Real life scenario:** A hearing person sets up an ASL teaching business whether online or offline, whether for-profit or non-profit [cultural appropriation] and then hires Deaf tutors/teachers [tokenized] and some hearing interpreters as ASL tutors/instructors [hearing privilege].
- **Allyship:** Use or support the services of the Deaf-owned businesses, services, websites, and organizations of the Deaf.

## S:Drive tip

- Seek for RCD folder for valuable resource, information that will benefits Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind
- Soon will changing name to “**Deaf\_Hard of Hearing Information**”
  - Easier to find.



# Good resources

- [Disaster Distress Helpline Videophone for American Sign Language Users | SAMHSA](#)
- VR Counselors who work with Deaf/HH
  - <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/dvr-deaf-and-hard-hearing-services>



THANK  
YOU