


Working with a Sign Language Interpreter:

This year you have _____ in your room, who is deaf/hard of hearing. Treat him/her just as you would the other students in your class. Have the same expectations that you have for the other students in your room. An interpreter will be with this student. An interpreter is a qualified professional certified in interpreting for the deaf/hard of hearing. He/she is a staff member of your school and should be treated as one. An interpreter is not a teacher but a communication facilitator between the deaf/hard of hearing student and the teacher and/or the class; therefore, an interpreter is not certified to watch your class in your absence or sub in your absence.

What to keep in mind when using a sign language interpreter:

- ◆ Talk directly to the student and the interpreter will interpret or translate what you said in case the student did not understand. Some students will be able to read your lips, so try not to over-enunciate your words. Just talk normally. (Ex. Don't say "Mr/Mrs. Interpreter, tell Johnny..." Instead, say "Johnny, please take out your math book.")

- ◆ When picking films, videos and DVDs, please pick out ones with Closed Captioning. Any movies with this will have a "CC" or closed captioning symbol  on the back cover.

- ◆ The deaf/hard of hearing student is your student and you are responsible for his/her behavior and grades (unless otherwise specified by the IEP modifications).

- ◆ The interpreter is not a classroom assistant. He/She is there to facilitate communication between the student and his/her environment. So, get to know your student's interpreter and develop a professional relationship.

- ◆ Make sure there is a suitable chair and space for the interpreter. There should be adequate room in front of the classroom for the interpreter to be seated in the student's direct sight and to ensure visibility of the teacher.

If you have questions about specific things I have mentioned please feel free to ask me.

Thank you,