

# The things to DO when working with a BSL interpreter

Prepare - as much information as you can provide to the interpreter and the deaf person before the session will be a big help

Speak as you would normally (pace, content etc) - don't rush or speak too slowly.

Ask the deaf person, not the interpreter, to explain something if you do not understand it

Ask the deaf person if you have any questions about interpreting or how the session will work

Allow for 'eye breaks'. It takes a lot more concentration for the deaf person to actively 'listen' with their eyes, than it does a hearing person

Give the deaf person extra time to look at handouts or the screen - remember they can't listen when they're looking at the interpreter

Don't rush - allow extra time for the interpreter and deaf person to meet prior to the session so they can familiarise themselves with their language styles

Look at and speak directly to the deaf person, not the interpreter

Make sure the deaf person is able to clearly see the interpreter during the session

Include the deaf person in all conversations

# Things NOT to do when working with a BSL interpreter

Don't be concerned about information discussed during the session, the interpreter works to a strict code of confidentiality

Don't ask the interpreter about their job while they're working

Don't distract the interpreter and or deaf person by moving around too much

Don't ask the interpreter to explain what the deaf person means

Don't place the deaf person or interpreter in front of a window or too far away as they won't be able to see clearly - remember a deaf person 'hears' with their eyes

Don't ask the interpreter to "tell him or her..."

Don't ask the interpreter for their personal opinions or ask them not to interpret something you've said

Don't speak too slowly, over pronounce or try to think of simple sentences



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