

Reach, Teach and Nurture
1 Peter 4:7-11

Appropriate Use of Terminology regarding Deafness

Caribbean Christian
Centre for the Deaf
(CCCD)

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Objectives



- 1) To sensitise all individuals engaged in direct or indirect partnership with CCCD and the Deaf Community to the appropriate use of terminology regarding deafness
- 2) To promote a culture of respect for diversity
- 3) To invite and establish partnership in building awareness of the public when working with Deaf and hard of hearing persons as a diverse group



Questions



- What does “Deaf” mean to you?
 - Typical response: A person who cannot hear or ‘talk’
 - Reality: A person who communicates through eyes and hands, and not through ears and voice.



Question 2



- When did you become hearing?
- Obviously, it was either before or since you were born
- Experiences vary for individuals, but generally, you are more aware of your “hearing-ness” when you meet a deaf person or are among signers who communicate through eyes and hands.



Impact of Disrespect towards Diverse Individuals



💔 Low self-esteem

💔 Low self-confidence

💔 Faulty thinking that “I am a mistake”

💔 Weak understanding or low acceptance of deaf identity based on negative societal attitude

💔 Unhealthy enabling of perceptions on “I can’t” or “I need help,” or “someone has to help me.”

💔 Therefore, weak advocacy skills



Quotes to Ponder



- 🤔 If all a person is told is ‘you need fixed’ and ‘you can’t do that’, they eventually believe those lies
- 🤔 When you see the word “disability,” do you define it by “dis” or “ability”?



Appropriate Use of Terminology



- ✓ Deaf- referred to in a cultural sense and/or when pride is expressed
- ✓ deaf- referred to in a broad sense including those who may or may not identify with the Deaf Community
- ✓ Deaf Community- a group of persons with linguistic and cultural values
- ✓ Deaf Culture- shared beliefs, values, and practices



Appropriate Use of Terminology- Continued



✓ Hard of Hearing- persons with partial hearing loss who may or may not identify with the Deaf community

✓ Jamaican Sign Language (JSL)- a sign language that utilises handshape, orientation, location, movement, and facial expression to express thoughts and feelings, and is the primary and natural language of Deaf persons

✓ Hearing impaired- a medical term to label or identify the hearing ability of the patient upon hearing testing

✓ Persons/People with Disabilities- refer to a general group of persons with varying disabilities



Inappropriate Use of Terminology



- ✘ Deaf-mute- persons who are deaf do make sounds and some persons may choose not to use their voice
- ✘ Dummy/dumb- implies stupidity or intellectual impairment of the person
- ✘ Handicap- replaced with the term, disability
- ✘ Hearing-impaired- does not address the dignity of the person



Impact of Appreciation and Respect on Diverse Individuals



- ♥ Improved self-esteem
- ♥ Strengthened confidence
- ♥ Positive beliefs and values in self as a unique individual and about own abilities
- ♥ Affirmation of the dignity of the person
- ♥ Enhanced community bonding and support



What can you do to appreciate and respect persons who are Deaf?



- ✓ Learn JSL from basic to fluency
- ✓ Consider attending Deaf churches and/or social gatherings for cultural experience and appreciation
- ✓ Refer to deaf persons as 'Deaf' or 'deaf.' Correct anyone who refers to them inappropriately
- ✓ View all as equal partners in building the nation of Jamaica
- ✓ Use email, video messengers, and messaging apps to communicate with Deaf persons
- ✓ Maintain eye contact to show you are respectfully listening
- ✓ Volunteer at Schools and/or Organisations for the Deaf with the mindset that you are working with them, not for them



LEARN MORE

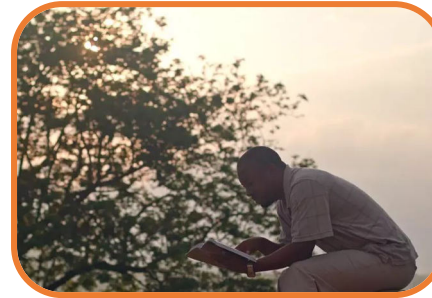
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