

FHSR

Foundation for Hearing and Speech Resources

Deaf with Disability (DWD)



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

40-60% of children born with hearing loss today have additional needs. These may include social/emotional needs, autism, learning disabilities, vision or other health impairments, and much more.

All of these children are still capable to achieving their full potential, given the appropriate supports.

If you suspect your child has additional needs, work with your school team and doctor to get additional testing.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Your child may need more supports in the classroom and other structured environments. Make sure to communicate your child's needs with your school team. This can be as simple as letting the team know that your child did not sleep well the night before



BEHAVIOR IS COMMUNICATION

There are times when your child may display unwanted behaviors and it can be easy to get frustrated. Look at the behavior and see what is occurring before the behavior and after. Is it the setting, the reward they are getting, the activity, etc.?

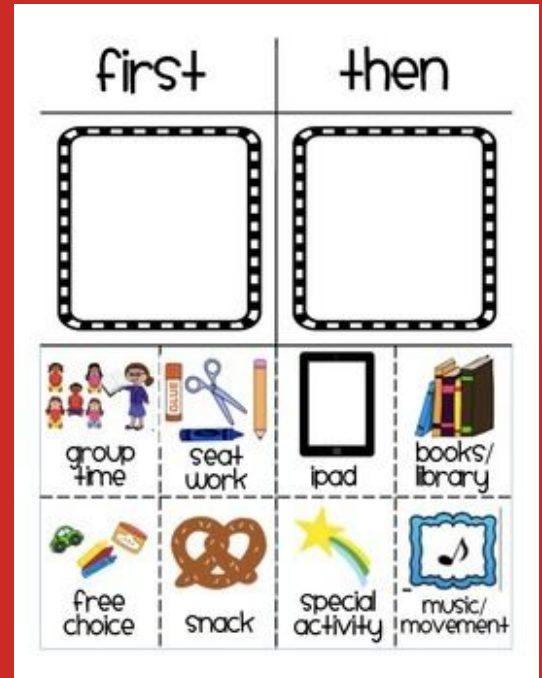
4 FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIOR

- Sensory (provides preferred sensory experience)
- Escape (removing undesired activity or interaction)
- Attention (access to people or interactions)
- Tangibles (provides preferred items or activities)

Strategies that are helpful for students who are deaf with a disability

- Visuals
 - visual schedules
 - visual prompts
 - visual timers
 - first/then schedules
- First/then statements
- Redirecting - with replacement activity or behavior
 - Instead of denying the activity ("I want to blow bubbles!") by saying "no, not now" - try offering a different activity: "Let's color instead."
- Offer choices
- Provide predictable and meaningful routines at home and at school
- Provide materials that are engaging and of interest to the student
- Provide wait time when asking a question or waiting for a response. This may be up to 30 seconds. This allows the child to process the information and form a response.
- Provide repetition and rephrasing of what is said
- Exercise patience - these children are working extra hard and every little achievement is a success

Sample First/Then Visual Schedule



Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)

Children on a BIP are not "bad" kids or lacking discipline, but rather kids who need support to manage their behavior in a way that meets their specific needs and functions.