

Deaf Inclusivity and American Sign Language Resources

- <https://www.lifeprint.com/>
This is a wonderful website, but you can get a bit lost.
When searching for a sign to use, I recommend searching Google for “thing I want to know asl lifeprint”. For example “coffee asl lifeprint”. This will normally bring up a video clip or the page from the above site for that sign.
- <https://asl.ms/>
For receptive fingerspelling practice (to practice your ABCs and when someone might spell out an English word to you)
- <https://www.youtube.com/@sign-language/featured>
A free, funny and truly helpful ASL course. This page is run by Dr. Bill Vicars, a university professor who has made his class available free of charge through a “learn at your own pace” video course.
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Lifeprint.ASLU/>
The Lifeprint/ASL University Facebook group. Helpful for learning more about Deaf culture, practicing ASL and asking questions!

Take Away Tips

- Call it what it is. “Deaf”, “hard of hearing” and “hearing” are appropriate terms. “Hearing impairment” or “disability” may be offensive or off-putting. This is important for publicity as well as communication.
- If you are using ASL in story times or other activities, please read about Deaf culture and history. It is very important you truly know not just the signs you are using, but the nature of ASL as well. ASL is not normally a word for word translation of English. Having a (good-intentioned) hearing person who is just learning the language themselves without making an effort to be part of the Deaf community is a topic to be explored and prepared for.
- Startup may be slow. Give it time! Let the community see you repeatedly taking part and trying. Once word spreads, it spreads fast. Take the time to earn trust.
- Virtual programming may bring many learners
- Food is key! I have found success by bribing with food and games.
- All ages and family friendly! Parents are looking for ways for their children to meet other Deaf or signing people and families. Hearing children are very interested in learning and practicing ASL. Hard of hearing adults may be starting their learning journey.
- Keep it light! Make it clear you are not a pro, an interpreter or a teacher. Tell your story of why you are interested in learning ASL and why you are hosting the program. People respect and appreciate honesty. It’s ok to be learning!
- The Deaf community is often overlooked and is eager for events!

Facebook Groups and Pages

- Florida Association of the Deaf
- Florida DeafBlind Association
- Florida Deaf Community
- Florida Families with Deaf and Signing Kids
- Deaf South Florida
- Deaf Literacy Center
- Family Center on Deafness
- PSL Deaf Social
- Deaf Fun & Deaf Floridians
- Deaf Florida
- Florida School for the Deaf and Blind
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center – SW Florida
- CentralFloridaDeaf – Orlando Area Deaf Friends
- Deaf Social of Central Florida
- Sarasota Deaf-ASL