



September | 2023

## Deaf, deaf - What is the difference between the two?

Did you know that there is a difference between the lowercase "d" and capital "D" in the word "deaf"?  
Yep, you heard that right. Some people identify themselves as "deaf" while others identify themselves as "Deaf".



**(d)eaf** individuals choose to integrate in the hearing community. Usually individuals were not born in a family that has a history of hearing loss. They may have gradually lost their hearing. Their primary choice of communication is spoken language. They may wear hearing device(s) that help them receive access to sound.

**(D)eaf** refers to people who identify themselves as culturally Deaf and are involved in the Deaf community. They look at Deafness as not something they have "lost" instead it is a "hearing difference." They also use sign language as a source of communication and they may not wear a hearing device(s) and they fully embrace the sound of silence.

I also want to acknowledge individuals who identify themselves as **hard of hearing** - which is generally known to be someone who has mild to severe hearing loss, uses hearing device(s), and, usually spoken language is their primary mode of communication.

Keep in mind, many people have their own definition on how capital "D" and lowercase "d" and hard of hearing should be defined. Some people are more passionate on how the terms should be used and some are flexible.

**Tip** - We appreciate it when people ask us what we identify ourselves with because it gives you a better understanding of our mode of communication, culture, and most importantly, an overall idea of our journey as a d/Deaf individual.

Dominique Villarreal  
School Counselor  
**(D)eaf**

## Become a Deaf/HH Ally

Being an ally for deaf and hard of hearing students with hearing equipment at school is an important step towards creating an inclusive and supportive educational environment. Here are some ways you can be an effective ally:

**Educate Yourself:** Start by learning about different types of hearing equipment such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, BAHA's and FM systems. Understand the challenges and experiences of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

**Maintain Eye Contact:** When speaking with a deaf or hard of hearing student, maintain eye contact and face them directly. This helps them lip-read and understand facial expressions and body language, which are crucial for effective communication.

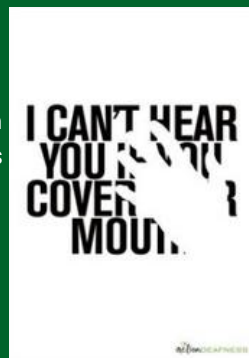
**Be Patient and Ask for Feedback:** Deaf and hard of hearing students may occasionally miss information or need clarification. Be patient and willing to repeat or rephrase when necessary. Encourage them to provide feedback on what works best for them.

**Advocate for Accessibility:** If you notice any accessibility issues in the school, such as the lack of captioning for videos or inadequate hearing assistive devices, advocate for improvements and work with the school administration to make necessary changes.

**Be an Ally Beyond the Classroom:** Support and stand up for deaf and hard of hearing students in all aspects of school life, including extracurricular activities and social situations.

Remember that being an ally is an ongoing process that involves empathy, patience, and a willingness to learn. By taking these steps, you can help create an inclusive and welcoming school environment for all students, regardless of their hearing abilities.

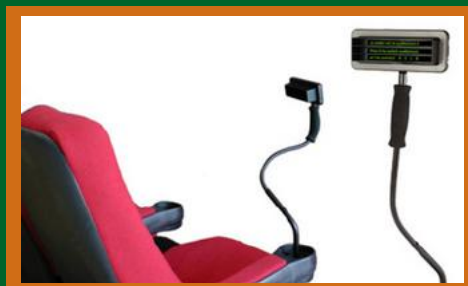
Ethan Casarez  
4th grade Teacher Assistant  
**(d)eaf**



# Utilizing Resources - Theatre Captioning Devices

When we talk about inclusivity, it is important that deaf/hard of hearing individuals know what resources are available to them. For example, there are movie theaters in San Antonio, TX that provide captioning devices that allow you to understand movie dialogue.

There are two types of captioning devices you could choose from, the CaptiView and Closed Caption Glasses created by Sony. Once I started using the captioning devices, I didn't realize how much I was missing out in understanding the dialogue. It has made my movie experience more enjoyable and inclusive. I no longer have to ask every minute what was going on in the movie.



It is important to call the theater ahead of time to ask what type of device they carry and make sure the theater has devices that are charged. There have been times when the devices were not charged.

These devices are truly a life changer and have made my movie experience all the more enjoyable. I'm excited to share this information and hope you will utilize these resources!

Clarissa Gonzalez  
1st grade Teacher Assistant  
**(d)eaf**

# d/Deaf Movie Recommendations

We're just three short weeks away from our Fall Break, and if you plan to unwind by watching some flicks, why not try one that has a character who experiences hearing loss? These movies help build understanding, compassion, and inclusivity among hearing viewers. I have viewed some of these myself but have quite a few more on the list to go. In the meantime, I hope you find some new content here that will stimulate discussion, provoke thought, and make you feel something...as every great movie should!

- Mr. Holland's Opus
- Sound and Fury
- CODA
- A Quiet Place
- Sound of Metal
- The Hammer
- Wonderstruck
- Through Deaf Eyes
- Hear and Now
- Touch the Sound
- Sweet Nothing in My Ear
- Deaf Out Loud



Amanda Grant, Parent-Infant Advisor  
**Hard of Hearing**

## Did You Know...?

- Linda Bove is the first Deaf person to appear on Sesame Street and introduced many hearing and deaf children to American Sign Language and The Deaf community; 1971-2002
- You know the huddle that football players do? It was invented by a deaf quarterback, Paul Hubbard.
- What about the baseball coaches that signal to their players? William Ellsworth Hoy was the first deaf player in major league baseball and this was how communication was established across the bases.
- Mandy Harvey sang "Try" and played the ukulele on "America's Got Talent" and won the Golden Buzzer

Melissa Smith  
Pre-K Teacher  
**(d)eaf**

## Deaf Awareness Committee Members

- Amanda Grant**, Hard of Hearing, Parent-Infant Advisor
- Briana Mora**, Hearing, Pre-K Teacher
- Clarissa Gonzalez**, (d)eaf, 1st Grade Teacher Assistant
- Dominique Villarreal**, (D)eaf, School Counselor
- Ethan Casarez**, (d)eaf, 4th Grade Teacher Assistant
- Jackie Vizcaino**, Hearing, Audiologist
- Melissa Smith**, (d)eaf, Pre-K Teacher
- Michael Pfeifer**, Hard of Hearing, Parent-Infant Advisor
- Pooja Palimar**, Hearing, Development and Grant Coordinator
- Taylor May**, Hearing, Speech Language Pathologist

Don't Forget to  
participate in  
Deaf Awareness  
Week ~  
Sept. 25-29!

