



Activities to help you learn at home with your deaf child



Create an environment where your child can learn in a natural way. Showing your child how to wash their hands correctly, and trying to explain why, is as important as learning from a book. There are many useful ways to develop your child's life skills:

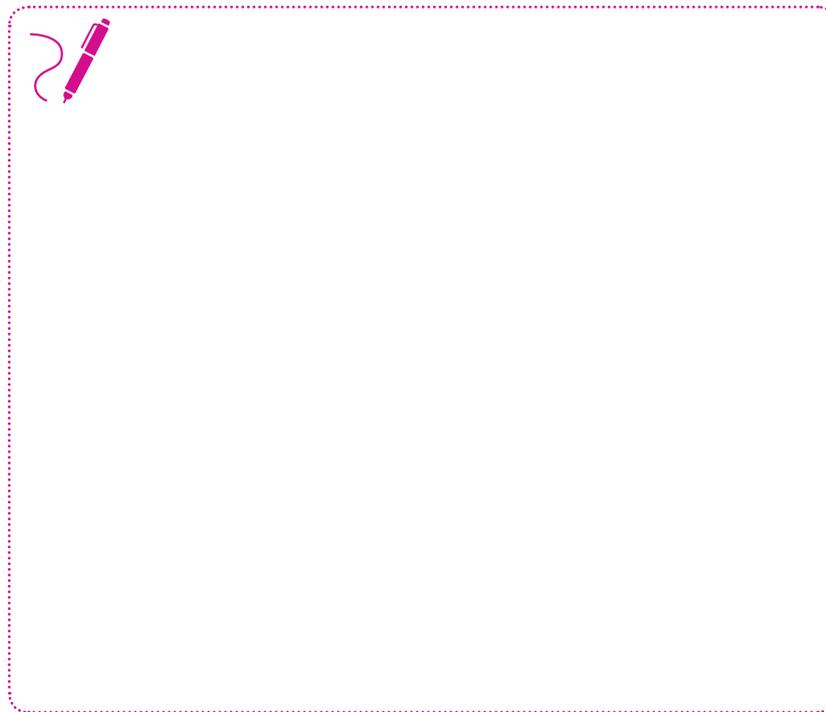
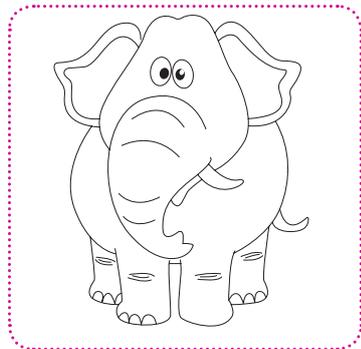
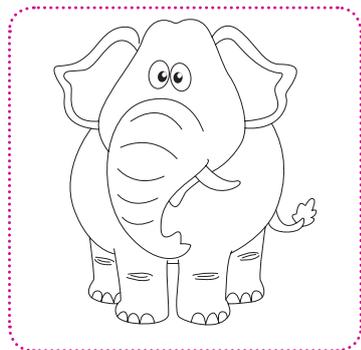
- › Counting objects and showing the numbers on your fingers
- › Explaining ingredients to your child and how they change during cooking
- › Telling your child the names of trees, hills, rivers, fruits, vegetables, animals or birds and agreeing a sign. Or describing, touching, tasting, or smelling each of them to learn colours, shapes, texture, taste and smell
- › Helping your child pick out the letters in their name
- › Teaching them to tell the time

Activities for very young deaf and hearing children who are learning at home

Talent show

Draw an outline of an object or animal on paper or in the sand or dirt. You can use a picture from a magazine as an outline or template if you have one. Draw the object four or five times. When you draw the pictures, try and draw them the same but change the details on one of them. For example, if you draw a dog or an elephant, have one with a long tail and the rest with short tails.

- Are the ears the same?
- Which one is different?
- Are they the same size?



Back Together Again

Draw a simple picture, or use one from a newspaper or magazine. Cut the picture up and ask your child to try to put it back together like a puzzle.

Or, draw an outline picture of a cat or another animal and cut out a section. Ask your child to try to draw in the missing part of the picture.



Activities for very young deaf and hearing children who are learning at home

Missing things

Gather together several different objects from around the home or garden and place them together. Ask your child to look at the objects and name them. Ask your child to close their eyes or turn away, and then remove one object. Ask your child to look again and see if they can remember which one is missing. Ask your child which one is missing. You can make this harder by adding more objects to the game. It's also a good game for taking in turns as your child can take away items and you can guess what's missing. This will help you and your child to communicate and help them to learn new words and signs.



Naming objects

This is a great way to help children associate words and signs with objects. You can also introduce descriptive words such as 'small chair', 'large table', 'blue lamp'. Try to come up with signs or gestures if you do not know the Sign Language for the words. Or if your deaf child is learning Sign Language at school ask them to show you the sign. If your child is ready to start learning to read and write, you could ask your child to write labels on different household objects. This will help them practice writing, spelling and learning new words.



Matching numbers

Draw circles in the sand or on paper and write a number from 1 to 10 in each one. Collect together lots of different objects (e.g. bottle tops, stones, nuts, leaves) and ask your child to put the right number of items in each circle. This will help your deaf child to match number names and number symbols, count carefully and learn new words in a fun way.



Acting

Use a soft toy or doll and act out a daily activity with the doll. Through this activity children can learn names and signs of body parts and some direct activities. Perhaps the doll can help with learning to cook or getting dressed or other daily activities.



Activities for older deaf children and young people who are learning at home

Depending on their age and school grade, your deaf child may have textbooks to work through but even if they do not, they can continue to learn while at home. If you have access to the internet or use online apps, there are many websites that can help with learning, but care needs to be taken that these are safe and that your child is not using the screen all day. Your local teachers may know of useful websites and you could ask them to recommend these.

Signs and Gestures

Ask your deaf child to teach you signs so you can learn with them and start to communicate more. Make it into a family competition to see who can learn the most signs, but remember that knowing signs for objects is just the start of learning Sign Language.



Using Text Books

If your child came home with the school text books, encourage them to read their books. They may need help with this. There are exercises in the books which you can guide your child to try. It would be useful for your child to have a note book to try writing answers. Take an interest in their work and discuss or help them with the exercises; mark them if you can. If they have an older sibling, then the older sibling can also act as a study-buddy or a teacher.



Getting involved in learning with younger brothers and sisters

Older children can be involved in teaching younger children to read and write or use numbers. They can make up stories to entertain the younger children by telling them or drawing them on paper or in the sand. They could make up a game and write down the rules, then teach the game to other children and people in the family.



Activities for older deaf children and young people who are learning at home

Other learning activities

Your older deaf child can be encouraged to help you write out a shopping list and work out the money needed to buy the things on it. This will help with writing and maths. Or, if you cannot leave your home, set up a room or small space as a market stall or shop with a few items for sale. Your child can pretend to buy the items and pay for them or they can be the shopkeeper and work out the change to give in return and count it out. Through this shopping activity children can learn the concept of money.

Ask them to tell you a story, and if possible write this down. They could tell you about school or their favourite game or sport or describe a person they know. Alternatively, they could write down a recipe with ingredients and instructions for meals that are being cooked and even help with the cooking.

For those still learning to write, ask them to copy letters and words but always try to help them understand the meaning of the word as well and not just copy it. Make up signs or gestures if you don't know them or ask your child to teach you the sign they already know.



Family Tree

Work with your child to draw a family tree showing how the members are related to each other.



Map

Work with your child to make a map of your local area showing roads, buildings, fields, shops, schools, etc. Be as detailed as you can.



Explore how germination works, and how seeds become plants by looking around at the flowers, bushes and trees near your home.

Show a festival picture to your child and discuss what is going on in the picture. Think about what happens during the festival, and when it happens in the calendar.



Learning with your deaf child can be fun! Learn and work out the best ways to communicate TOGETHER!