

COMMUNICATION

APPROACH

Approach an individual so they are able to make use of any functional vision they may have.

WHAT WE SAY

Gain the persons attention

Establish what you are talking about

Rephrase when information is not understood –don't just repeat.

Confirm important information

And.....

HOW WE SAY IT

- SPEAK SLOWLY
- SPEAK CLEARLY
- INCREASE VOLUME
- MAINTAIN VOLUME
- USE PAUSES
- INTONATION
- SIMPLE WORDS
- SHORT SENTENCES



For more information
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Supporting
people who
are
deafblind

Ideas for making
life a little easier
for people who
are deafblind



LIGHTING

Lighting. Ensure there is good lighting, enough for the individual to see your face, an object or event. Reduce glare, and ensure light is not shining directly into the individuals eyes.

Contrast. Contrast is good, helps individual distinguish you, or an object from the surroundings



SAFETY

AVOID;

Rugs, waste bins and coffee tables in the middle of rooms.
Head height hazards.
Shoes or bags on the floor.
Do not leave doors half open as it can cause serious injuries.

NOISE

Background noise is detrimental to good conversation.

Switch off the television or radio, or move to a quieter area.



ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Hearing aids.

Do hearing aids make a significant difference to the person.

Low vision aids

Does the person have access to low vision aids.



Does the individual know how to use the assistive device.

Is it on hand, clean and in good working order.

LOCATION CLUES



Within the **home** different pieces of furniture, doors or flooring act as **location clues**. Once furniture is established as a location clue, it is important that it is not moved.

Equally in the **garden**; grass, plants, paving and gates could all act as clues

Do not forget that **sounds and smells** are also useful clues.
Location of the TV in the lounge acts as a guide to where that room is.