



Module 2: Communicating with a person with intellectual disability

Resources that will assist communication

Check if the person has had a recent speech pathology or psychology assessment to gain a better understanding of his or her communication skills and needs.

If no reports are available, ask people who know the person well what communication strategies work best with that person.

If possible request a speech pathology assessment to better understand the individual's communication abilities and needs.

Check if the person has a communication aid or device.

Higher proportions of people with intellectual disability have vision and hearing impairments (Meuwese-Jongejeugd et al. 2008). Check if the person uses hearing aids or glasses and make sure he or she uses them during the meeting.

If the person is deaf and uses sign language (not key word signs), book an interpreter.

References

Meuwese-Jongejeugd, A., Van Splunder, J., Vink, M., Stilma, J. S., Van Zanten, B., Verschuure, H., . . . Evenhuis, H. (2008). Combined sensory impairment (deaf-blindness) in five percent of adults with intellectual disabilities. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 113(4), 254-262.