

# Peer information sheet: Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing

All of us are unique. We all have strengths, and we all have areas where we are still learning. We are all born with different hair, eyes, personality, and fingerprints. We can always find something we have in common with someone else like an interest, hobby, or activity we enjoy.

Some students are Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing. Just like hair, eyes or fingerprints, this is a part of them, but not who they are. When you take the time to get to know them, you'll find there are lots of things you have in common.

## About Deaf, deaf and hard of hearing

Students who are Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing might be good at overcoming challenges, and at picturing images in their mind. Students who are Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing might not be able to hear things as easily as other students, or they might use sign language to talk.

### Lip reading

Some students who are hard of hearing might still use words to talk to others. They might have a hearing aid to help them hear. They might watch your lips to work out what you're saying. You can help them by talking clearly and making sure they can see your lips when you talk. You can help by repeating what was said if they missed it.

### Sign language

Some students who are Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing might use sign language to communicate. In Australia this is called Auslan. You can ask them (or your teacher) to teach you some signs so that you can talk with them.

### Play

Students who are Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing like to be included in games and activities – just like all students. They might not hear you in a noisy playground. You can help them by using gestures (like waves, thumbs up, shaking your head, Auslan) to communicate when playing with them.

### School Learning Support Officer (SLSO)

Some students who are Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing might work with an SLSO in the classroom. You can still talk and work with them when the SLSO is there. After all – an SLSO is not quite the same as having a friend the same age to talk to during class.

### Just like you

Students who are Deaf, deaf and hard of hearing have lots of ways in which they're just like you. They can feel happy, sad, excited, or worried – just like you. They are learning, growing and exploring – just like you. And they like having friends, going to parties, and being included – just like you.

