

NYC Deaf Access Committee of AA

Helping ensure we carry the message to ALL those seeking recovery



Want to be a better ally to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community?

Tips are printed on the back of this flyer!

Consider printing copies to keep
at the literature table at your meeting!

To download a copy of this flyer and for more info,
visit nycdacaa.org and click ***Accessibility Tips and FAQ***



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For even more information, visit nycdacao.org and click **Accessibility Tips and FAQ**

Tips for Communicating with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- **Don't assume that Deaf people can lip-read** - many Deaf people cannot, and even under the best circumstances, lip-reading is estimated to only be about 30% effective. If there's no interpreter around, type what you want to say on your phone in the Notes app and hold it up for the Deaf person to read. [Click here to download the Cardzilla app](#) - it's free to use and shows what you type in large font.
- **Can you finger-spell?** Great! Feel free to use that to introduce yourself with your name, as well as for other shorter answers. [Click here](#) to learn the ASL alphabet.
- **Make sure you have the attention of the Deaf person** before you start talking to them, and maintain eye contact throughout. ASL is a visual language, so eye contact when having a conversation is a big part of Deaf culture. Turning away from a Deaf person while talking to them is discourteous, so be mindful of that.
- **When communicating via an interpreter, speak directly to the Deaf person.** Use "I/you" language – don't talk to/thru the interpreter, like "Tell them I said..." or "Can you ask them to..." etc. The interpreter will position themselves where they need to be, so just converse the way you regularly would and they'll handle the rest.
- If you want to learn ASL, here are some places in NYC you can start in-person classes – **ALWAYS learn ASL from a Deaf person!**
 - [The Sign Language Center](#) (great for beginners to intermediate)
 - [ASL NYC](#) (great for beginners and all levels)

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