

March 6th is National Deaf Youth Day!



SOME FACTS:

In School Year 2018-2019, 14% of the children attending school received special education services in the US. Children who have hearing impairments were 1% of that group.

Some children with hearing impairments have a little bit of a hearing loss and some a lot. Some children identify themselves as hard of hearing and some as deaf. This may reflect the amount of hearing loss they experience or their cultural affiliation. Regardless of how much they hear, they may wear hearing aids or have cochlear implants or use nothing at all.

Almost all deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children can use their voices, but some are more easy to understand than others. It is difficult to speak clearly if you cannot hear yourself and others.

Some DHH children use other forms of communication, like sign language. In the United States, we use American Sign Language (ASL). ASL is not manual English. It is its own language, with its own grammar, vocabulary, etc.

HOW WE CAN HONOR OUR DEAF YOUTH:

1. Learn some basic sign language and try to communicate.
2. Study famous deaf people and learn how they contributed to Deaf and American Cultures.
3. Become pen or video chat pals with a DHH student.
4. Ask some DHH students to share stories about growing up with a hearing loss.
5. Invite DHH youth to show how familiar stories look when communicated in ASL.
6. Discuss some ways that you can help DHH fellow students advocate for equal access to information and services.
7. Learn basic facts about how sign languages differ from spoken languages.
8. Watch some videos of Deaf poetry and storytelling.