



Introduce a Visual Language

In the past Deaf people were locked away in hospitals partly because hearing people did not know how to sign.

Nowadays, attitudes have changed, technology has improved and Sign language is more accepted. Most deaf children go to mainstream schools.

Deafblindness (365,000 people) is a combination of sight loss and hearing loss which makes it harder to communicate and move around. **Most deafblind people have some vision and some sight.**

In 1881 the Galludet brothers in the USA insisted on promoting Sign language. Sign language for deaf people was banned in 21 countries.

The only university in the world still teaching solely in Sign language is Galludet University. Prior to this, sign language became popular. Even Queen Victoria signed with her deaf daughter.



In the UK, 10 million people, including 45,000 children, have hearing loss. Of these 800,000 are severely deaf. People born deaf never having heard language often rely on Sign language and view themselves as the Deaf community.



Children learning Sign language

All Equal All Different:
people who are HEARING IMPAIRED, DEAF PEOPLE & DEAF BLIND people

BSL Fingerspelling Alphabet



Most deaf people rely on hearing aids and lip reading. Finger spelling also aids communication.



Helen Keller describing Beethoven's 9th symphony in the image below

Keller, who was Deaf & Blind, learned to speak and read and got a degree.

Of course this was not "hearing," but I do know that the tones and harmonies conveyed to me moods of great beauty and majesty. I also sense, or thought I did, the tender sounds of nature that sing into my hand-swaying reeds and winds and the murmur of streams. I have never been before by a multitude of tone-

- Helen Keller on



History
 Ancient Roman law classified deaf people as 'mentecatti furiosi' (angry maniacs) and claimed they were uneducable. In 1750's in Paris, Abbe De l'Epee invented Sign language and set up the first public school for Deaf people in France.

Adjustments
 A mixture of high quality hearing aids, Sign, cochlear implants, subtitles and lip speaking give much greater access.



Current Culture
 66 % of deaf and deafblind children report bullying.

You wouldn't want to be called -