



TEACHER OF THE DEAF

Play and learn with Teachers of the Deaf!

One in every one thousand babies born in Australia has significant hearing loss. More than 90% of these children are born into families with hearing parents and no experience of deafness.

“Parents and caregivers may never have had to consider how language is learned because typically developing children acquire language seemingly effortlessly without the need for any intervention. Even a mild degree of deafness can affect the communication, language, cognitive and social skills of deaf and hard of hearing students ...”

It is vital that deaf and hard of hearing children receive specialised early intervention to focus on the development of language and communication.

What do Teachers of the Deaf do?

Deaf Connect Teachers of the Deaf (TODs) are teachers with postgraduate qualifications in deaf education. They have specialised knowledge in the language, communication, and social-emotional development of deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children, as well as the impact of deafness on development.



TODs focus on language acquisition, whether that be spoken and/or sign language. They have knowledge of the different communication opportunities (auditory-oral; bilingual-bicultural; spoken language in combination with Auslan; and all-inclusive communication system). They implement strategies and programs to develop communication, language and literacy, and track outcomes using evidence-based intervention protocols for individualised goal development. TODs also work with families to:

- Manage hearing aids and cochlear implants
- Understand hearing technology and audiology
- Create good listening environments
- Implement strategies to support communication, including listening, speech, language and play
- Recommend age-appropriate resources to support language and communication development, including Auslan resources.

- Learn about Deaf culture and the importance of deaf role models

TODs work collaboratively with families, professionals and multidisciplinary teams and other service providers.

Want to know more?

Get in touch with our team at therapy.info@deafconnect.org.au