



**THE OUTREACH CENTER**  
for Deafness and Blindness

# Communication Planning Guide for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



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## *A Planning Tool for School Teams and Families*

*“Research shows that when adults create rich language and literacy environments, and respond to a child’s communication in specific ways, they can boost that child’s emergent language and literacy development, and increase the likelihood of future academic success.”*

– The Hanen Center

# What is Communication Planning?

Communication and language are foundational skills for engagement in learning. The Communication Planning Guide is a tool that teams (i.e. IFSP, IEP, 504) can use to create rich language and literacy environments for learners.

- Learners use a wide variety of communication strategies across learning environments.
- Providing communication options takes focused effort and thoughtful planning.
- Intentional planning creates improved accessibility in the learning environment for the learner.
- Provides a place to document issues considered, action plans, and discussion questions.
- Designed as a collaborative tool for the school team.
- This guide focuses on the communication capabilities of the learner.

*“Look at the capability of that child. Focus on the capability of that child. And just be open-minded and have high expectations.”*

– Abby White, Teacher of the Deaf

The Guide is available at  
[www.deafandblindoutreach.org](http://www.deafandblindoutreach.org)



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