Submission from Deaf Connections

Early language acquisition is the fundamental issue affecting deaf children. With 90% of deaf children being born to hearing parents the issue is ensuring these children do not suffer delayed language acquisition. This is possible if parents are properly supported in developing a healthy linguistic environment at home. For parents to feel confident in their choices they need to be well educated in an unbiased way and then supported in developing the new set of skills required to carry out their role as parents, whether this is learning BSL, learning an oral approach, or both.

Within the school setting the best possible scenario is if the class teacher is fluent in the first language of the child. For a signing deaf child working through an interpreter is not ideal.

Jo Bowie

Community Education Officer
Deaf Connections