Deaf Success in Fall 2020: Guide for Families, Parents, and Students

Fall 2020 brings many questions for your deaf youth’s education and future. Our research shows **family support is so important!** While there is a great deal of uncertainty now and in the months ahead, we encourage families to use **ways to connect** with their deaf teenager, look for opportunities to seek **community** support, and advocate for their equal access **guaranteed by law** to all learning opportunities.

This guide has key strategies to support deaf success with your child during Fall 2020 and beyond.

### KEY STRATEGIES

#### Plan for the Future

- Have high expectations! **Parent expectations** play a critical role for deaf youth as they transition from high school to college and work experiences.
- Think about multiple options and pathways to life after high school. **Transition planning** for deaf youth requires a **flexible, positive approach**, now more than ever.
- Learn from **current deaf college students** about their strategies for navigating different challenges during the pandemic.
- Connect with **vocational rehabilitation professionals** in your area and learn about the options for **pre-employment transition services**.

#### Focus on Self-Determination

- Emphasize **self-determination skill** development at home. These skills have **lifelong benefits** in **school**, **in the workplace**, and in the community.
- Advocate for **accessible resources with your child**, including remote interpreting, speech to text, and inclusive online learning design.
- Encourage your child to play **Deafverse**, a choose-your-own-adventure game created just for teenagers. This online game comes with student and teacher guides, **home activity packs**, and more.

#### Build a Network

- Watch the NDC #DeafSuccess **video playlist** with your child to see deaf adults share their many different pathways of life after high school.
- Cultivate **stress management and wellness** for all family members. With many providers using remote video services, explore what options may be available for accessible wellness and mental health supports.
- Seek out a mentor for your child. **Research** shows that deaf youth who participate in mentorship programs develop greater confidence, self-worth, and deaf identity, which can in turn build self-esteem.

**STAY CONNECTED WITH NDC**

- **COVID-19 Info** and **FAQs** are regularly updated.
- **NDC | Help Team** is just a click away.
- **Subscribe** to keep current and connect with peers.

**Strategy to Avoid**

Don’t stop or postpone your child’s college searches. Take advantage of online college tours and open houses.

**DIG DEEPER**

Learn more in NDC’s **online learning library**—free, self-paced courses on Deaf 101, Effective Communication, and more.

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Links
1. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/family-support-deaf-teens
3. nationaldeafcenter.org/engage/local
4. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/legalpolicy
6. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/transition
7. nationaldeafcenter.org/defining-deaf
10. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/vrtoolkit
11. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/pre-ets
13. youtube.com/watch?v=0g2yUQ2TSTE&feature=youtu.be
14. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/self-advocacy-skills-and-transition-planning-deaf-students
16. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/remember-accessibility-rush-online-instruction-10-tips-educators
17. nationaldeafcenter.org/deafverse/about.html
19. youtube.com/results?search_query=%23DeafSuccess
20. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/mental-health-care-deaf-individuals-needs-risk-factors-and-access-treatment
21. nationaldeafcenter.org/learn
22. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid19faqs
23. nationaldeafcenter.org/get-help
24. nationaldeafcenter.org/newsletter-listserv-sign-up
25. nationaldeafcenter.org/learn
26. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid-19-information