

Education AIDE (Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity) Checklist



This document is a checklist that covers key areas to address in the education system that applies the AIDE principles in Australia for deaf children – including deafblind and deaf + disabilities children.



Qualified Staff

- ☐ Ensure that teachers and support staff are bilingual by using qualified deaf experts to assess their signacy skills and knowledge in Deaf education.
- ☐ Provide professional development opportunities for educators to enhance their skills in working with deaf students.



Accessible Learning Materials

- ☐ Offer curriculum materials in formats suitable for deaf & deafblind students, such as sign language videos, captioned videos, written transcripts, visual aids, Auslan translations, braille, and more.
- ☐ Ensure that textbooks and other learning resources are available in accessible formats.



Communication Access

- ☐ Promote the use of Auslan as main language for deaf students and provide interpreters all the time. Including language models are also vital for communication success with deaf students who need them.
- ☐ Implement communication access plans for classrooms and school events.



Technology Integration

- ☐ Utilise assistive technologies such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, and FM systems, but do not put the focus on them.

- ☐ Ensure that online learning platforms and educational software are accessible for deaf students.



Inclusive Classroom Practices

- ☐ Encourage inclusive teaching methods that accommodate diverse learning and communication styles of deaf students.

- ☐ Ensure that the deaf student has a group of friends who are also bilinguals.

- ☐ Understand the difference between inclusion and integration and actively work towards the former.

- ☐ Foster a supportive and respectful classroom environment.



Individualised Education Plans (IEPs)

- ☐ Develop IEPs for deaf students outlining specific accommodations and support services and ensure they are always met.

- ☐ Regularly review and update IEPs based on the student's progress and needs and consult with Deaf experts to find ways to adjust and improve.



Social Inclusion

- ☐ Promote social inclusion through activities that encourage interaction among deaf and hearing students.
- ☐ Raise awareness about Deaf culture and foster a positive understanding of differences. Encourage participations to various events related to the Deaf community, such as school visits with interpreters.



Accessibility of Facilities

- ☐ Ensure that school facilities are accessible to deaf students, including ramps, visual alerts, and captioning in public spaces. Consult with Deaf experts on making the space safe for deaf students.



Parental Involvement & Self Advocacy

- ☐ Encourage communication between parents of deaf students and school staff.
- ☐ Encourage transparency and clear communication between deaf students and admin in the education institutions.
- ☐ Provide resources and support for parents to better understand and advocate for their child's needs.
- ☐ Provide resources and supports for deaf students to advocate for their needs while studying at your institution.



Teacher Training and Awareness

- ☐ Offer workshops and training sessions to raise awareness about Auslan, Deaf culture, and effective deaf sensitivity teaching strategies.
- ☐ Foster a culture of understanding and inclusion among all school staff members.



Transition Planning

- ☐ Develop transition plans with proper supports and spaces for deaf students moving between educational levels.
- ☐ Collaborate with post-secondary institutions and employers to ensure a smooth transition to higher education or employment with assistance from Deaf experts.



Regular Assessment and Feedback

- ☐ Implement regular assessments to check the academic progress of deaf students.
- ☐ Provide constructive feedback to both students and parents to support ongoing development.



Collaboration with Deaf Organisations

- ☐ Set up partnerships with local Deaf organisations to use their expertise and resources.
- ☐ Stay informed about the latest advancements and best practices in Deaf education.



Adopting a comprehensive approach to address these aspects will contribute to a more inclusive and supportive education system for deaf students in Australia. Keep in mind that individual needs may vary, and ongoing communication with students, parents, and relevant stakeholders is crucial for success.