Communication Strategies When Talking to Someone with a Hearing Loss

• Get the attention of the person with hearing loss before you begin speaking (say name, tap shoulder, etc.)

• Try to talk face to face whenever possible.

• Do not try to communicate from another room.

• Do not try to talk when your back is toward the person with hearing loss.

• Do not start talking and then turn away from the person with hearing loss.

• Do not talk in competition with anything else:
  o Turn down/off/mute TV
  o Turn down/off radio
  o Turn off water, etc.

• Try to remove obstructions from in front of your mouth while talking to the person with hearing loss so they can get all the visual cues possible:
  o Gum/food chewing
  o Hands
  o Cigarettes

• Talk clearly and distinctly but do not shout. Louder is not necessarily better.

• Always exercise empathy and patience when communicating with a person with hearing loss.

• Be compliant and helpful and encourage the listener to give you feedback to make it as easy as possible for the person with hearing loss.

• Be supportive and encouraging to the new hearing aid user!