

Prepare Your Teenagers for Success in Life and Employment

BY:

Pamela Mower

Employment Specialist

Discussion Points

- Can deaf/hard of hearing (D/HH) people succeed in life and work?
- Why do some D/HH people succeed while others don't? What is missing?
- Advice and tips will be given.

My Background

- Deaf
- Family background
- Mainstreamed
- Total Communication and Education
- Experiences and beliefs
- BA and MS degrees
- Employment Specialist- 15 years
- Leader and involved on various boards

YOUR Biggest Fears?

Face

Everything

And

Rise



Challenges for Parents and D/HH Children/Teenagers

- Language options
- School options
- Expectations
- Technology
- Teach hard and soft skills
- Prepare for future

Factors for Success

- Beliefs
- Expectations
- Self-Advocacy and Empowerment
- Involvement
- Teach Life Skills- soft and hard skills
- Role Models- D/HH adults
- Participate in sports, clubs, organizations, etc.
- Volunteer or work part time during high school
- Develop identity as a person with hearing loss

Easy Mistakes to be Aware of

- Taking over and doing things for your child
- Comparing your child with other children
- Following ONLY medical professionals for advice- “White Coat Syndrome”
- What I want versus what my child wants or needs
- No exposure to Deaf or Hard of Hearing role models

Deaf Plus - Image Microsystems

- CEO hired 2 deaf in 2004.
- Now over 25% of workforce are Deaf/HOH.
- Partnership with Texas School for the Deaf.
- Hands-on training and real life experience in workplace.
- After graduation, employment.



Team Members from Texas School for the Deaf



<https://lizwalk.wordpress.com/2009/10/21/the-hiring-of-deaf-workers-wins-image-microsystems-major-award/>

Police Officer

Erica Trevino



- First female deaf police officer in Texas.
- Quote - *"I just realized I'm not going to let anyone tell me what I can do and what I cannot do," she said. "So I decided to become a police officer. It's been a long, hard path, but here I am."*

Pediatric Neurology Specialist

Dr. Wendy Eastman



- 16 years of experience
- Pediatrics
- Neurological testing
- Sleep and EEG testing
- Treat Bell's Palsy
- Treat Peripheral Nerve Disorders
- Treat epilepsy, seizures and brain tumors

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Teen Crew



Crew leader Sachiko Flores (left) explains how to build a trail to deaf members of the Northwest Youth Corps at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Youth crew members Niko (center), Drew and Bryson spent the week with other deaf crew building a new trail into a loop. (Andy Bronson / The Herald)

Northwest Youth Corps ASL Inclusion Conversation Crew

- Program- encourage diversity and help young deaf people get work experience.
- Paid for time and get educational credits.

Receptionist of the White House's West Wing

Leah Katz-Hernandez



- Worked for President Obama's re-election campaign
- Worked in First Lady's Press Office
- Worked as West Wing Receptionist
- Manager of Special Projects at Gallaudet University

Veterinary Physician/Owner

Dr. Thomas McDavitt



- Only deaf vet in Illinois; works at the Animal Clinic of Alsip AND now owns it
- Volunteered at Sedgewick County Zoo
- Vet for over 17 years

<http://www.agelesspassions.com/dr-thomas-mcdavitt-veterinarian/>

CDL Trucker



Scott Friede

- One of a FEW CDL deaf truckers in US
- Drove for over 15 years
- Drives from LA to New York

Attorney

Jeffrey Rosen



- General Counsel and Chief of Strategy Officer for Convo
- Longtime advocate for Deaf, civil and human rights
- Appointed by President Obama to be chairperson of National Council on Disability

Owner/Landscaper

Mont Palmer



- Yard Guru business
- Quote- *“My approach to life and to starting this business is true hard work and grit can get you anywhere, especially if you have the support of family like I did.”*

Senior Manager- West Region

JR Goff

FACTORS:

- Encouragement
- High expectations
- Work hard
- Do things himself
- Positive attitude



VIDEO

VIBE owner/Permits Coordinator



Maclain Drake

- Hard of Hearing
- Musical events - accessible to Deaf/HOH
- Learn through trial and errors

VIDEO

Building and Grounds Supervisor



Adam Shewell

FACTORS:

- Family - strongly involved in his life.
- Value of working hard.

VIDEO

Clinical Microbiologist

VI Fanestil



ADVICE:

- See the child with potential. Empower that child to do things even if it's not easy.
- Don't do what's easier for you- do what is best for the child.
- Don't let deafness be a factor in blocking the child's potential.

Janitor

Michael Eldridge

“more than a janitor; he’s a teacher, mentor, friend and an outstanding role model for the nearly 800 students at Deer Crossing Elementary. Michael is deaf and actively demonstrates that one’s disability never stands in the way of greatness.”



Community Relations Director



VIDEO

Martin Price

- Knew 300-400 words at age 7-8 due to using CUED but not meanings.
- Met a woman from Gallaudet who signed and he understood meanings.

Vice President of Corporate Marketing



Lance Pickett

ADVICE:

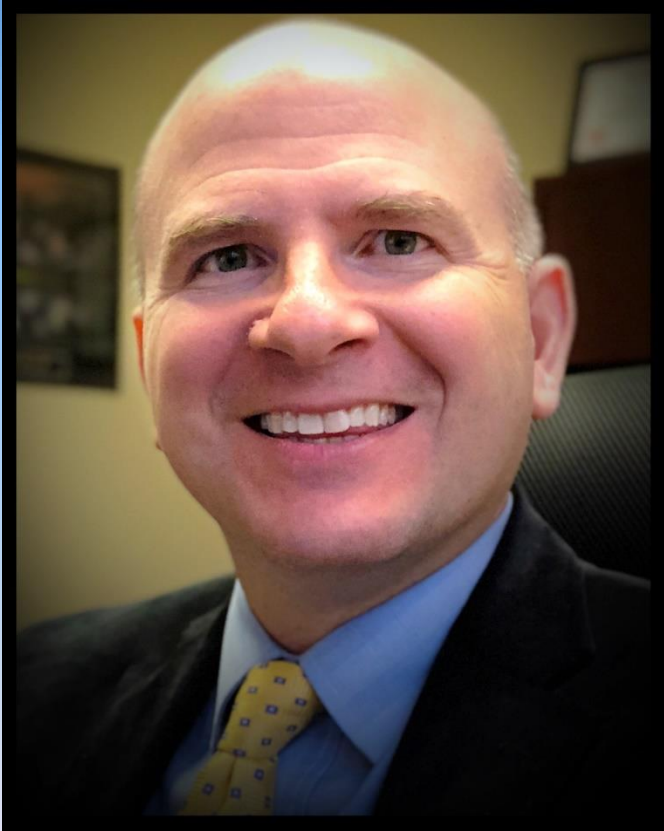
Grab all the opportunities available.

Learn how to learn.

Work hard.

Encourage independence and creativity.

Executive Director



VIDEO

Steven Snow

FACTORS:

- Communication with family.
- Socialize with deaf and hearing/signing peers.
- Leadership opportunities.

ADVICE

CONCLUSIONS

- Try your best and learn from experiences.
- Treat your child like any other child- high expectations, encourage and believe in them.
- Best to consult with and get support from various sources (Deaf/HOH community members, teachers, etc.)
- Any questions for me or each other?