



Speaking for Themselves

Imagine going to the doctor, a lawyer or the bank manager to discuss private matters and having to have someone else there to interpret for you.

This is the problem faced by deaf people with limited communication skills or who are dependent on someone interpreting or speaking on behalf of them.



One of the mums was walking behind us as we were going to school. David profoundly deaf aged three was talking away non-stop as usual. The mum smiled as she passed, 'He's a right little chatterbox isn't he?' I commented. She replied, 'Sometimes we have to ask him to be quiet!'

Everybody in your family and community already share a common language, the sound of the language surrounds us all the time, in the home, on the street, on the radio and tv. This natural immersion in language allowed us all to acquire it and be part of it.

We talk

- to share information
- to question
- to answer
- to share ideas
- to share dreams
- to share feelings

Laura, mother of profoundly deaf Charlie told me. "The other day I asked him 'where is your monkey?' He went upstairs and came back with monkey and penguin and said, 'here is monkey. Penguin too!' Anybody would be pleased if their toddler did that, but for us it was a great milestone."

We gossip, we chat, and we joke in the language we share with those we live and work with. With the right hearing technology and understanding of the **Natural Aural Approach**, however deaf they are deaf children will learn to talk naturally and effectively. Then they can speak for themselves for the rest of their lives.

BECAUSE IT WORKS

The Natural Aural Approach

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