

## **ACTIVITY 8D STUDENT HANDOUT**

### **Helpful Things a Caregiver Should Remember About the Hearing Impaired**

When talking to the hard-of-hearing, you will be able to help them understand more clearly if you:

1. Talk clearly at a moderate rate.
2. Keep your voice at the same volume throughout the sentence; don't "drop off" at the end.
3. Do not speak while you have something in your mouth.
4. Do not cover your mouth when you speak.
5. Pronounce consonants clearly.
6. Pronounce names clearly and provide a reference to the name such as, "This is Frank, the neighbor next door."
7. Speak directly to the listener; do not turn your head away in mid-sentence.
8. Face individual when speaking (if she/he is a lip reader, consider wearing bright red lipstick, don't cover your mouth, keep moustache or beard neatly trimmed so your lips are easier to see)
9. If you're not understood, repeat your request or statement, but substitute synonyms.
10. Attract the listener's attention before you begin speaking.
11. Remember inattentiveness or slow comprehension could indicate a hearing problem, rather than poor manners or low intellect.
12. If you change the subject of the conversation, do so slowly and use some key words to make sure the new topic is introduced.
13. Use longer phrases. For example, say "Please hand me the Sunday newspaper" instead of, "Give me the paper."
14. Be selective about the words you use. Words may be easily confused, such as "two-thirty" and "two-fifty"; try "half past two" and "nearly three o'clock."
15. Speak to the "good ear."
16. Don't shout!
17. Be patient!

