Sense International India

Personal Passport

Children with deafblindness/MSI are mysterious for volunteers, relatives, family friends, even for few parents to understand them and to have basic communication. This primes them to live an isolated life and develop so called behaviour problems. When the teacher gives information about their ward only few points are noted down or understood by others. Many people pay attention only to the matters what they think is important and they don't bother or spend time to understand the abilities/limitations of the children.

Here the personal passports play a vital role in gaining attention of others. It attracts others by its different appearance and helps them to understand effortlessly the important and basic stuffs about the children. It is the common psychology of people showing great interest towards something new and eye catching. Personal Passports are written in the way that the information is spoken in first person. Illustrations or the layman words about the child's vision, hearing, communication and medical stuffs makes the reader to have a clear perspective. Through the personal passport one can simply understand the child's demographic data, family information, health issues, communication styles, likes and dislikes etc., of the child.

Person responsible for designing the Personal Passport

Special educator who works with the child will be leading the activity along with the chid with deafblindness/ MSI. Caregiver and friends can also get involved in the activity. However, there should be a specific name of a key person responsible for keeping the passport up to date. Also set a review date with opportunities to update it as necessary.

Designing the Personal Passport

- The Personal Passport should be written in the first person, from the child's perspective
- It should be highly personalised to suit the child
- It should be interesting so that people want to read and look at it
- Ask all the people close to the child for their contributions and if possible let the child lead the design and content
- Consider what information is important and essential for others to know; however, one should always respect the child's confidentiality
- Use pictures, it provides a lot of information in a motivating way without lots of text
- Personal passport should be displayed in the classroom of the child
- Name of key person responsible for keeping the passport up to date should be mentioned

Guidelines for developing Personal Passport

1. The most important things you must know: - What are the most essential bits of information that anyone working with this child should know
2. How you can communicate with me:- Think about using pictures and photos of signs and gestures. Describe the distance and placement of signs.
3. **My hearing:-** Diagnosed hearing level Hearing devices (including pictures), Left vs right ear
4. **Functional hearing.** (What does this mean for the child?)
5. **My vision:** - Visual condition Glasses — (yes / no), optimum distance & size of pictures or objects, colour preferences, lighting preferences. (What does this mean for the child?)
6. **My family:** - Information about parents and family
7. **My friends:** - Think about the key people in the child's life, adult and children pets.
8. **Things I really like:** - Pictures will help here. Think about objects, textures, sensory experiences, activities and anything else that they enjoy. Perhaps include a description of how you can tell that the child likes it.
9. **Things I'm not so keen on**: - This is important. Think about objects, experiences, people, routines, activities etc. Remember to include a description of their negative response to something.
10. **School:** - Images could be used here. Descriptions of the child's bedroom or favoured place.
11. **Home:** - Photos of classrooms, staff and work areas may be useful. Favourite subjects and activities, times of the day.
12. **Eating and drinking:** - Oral vs non-oral? Favourite foods vs yucky foods, Utensils: spoons, bowls and cups (a picture might describe this best).
13. **The physical stuff:** - Refer to Physio and OT recommendations, if relevant. Any physical routines that have to be carried out each day. Can also mention about chairs and positioning.
14. **Medical information:** - **Be very clear here**. Ensure you highlight that staff should refer to protocols and trained people if a medical emergency arises. You could include details of medical conditions but only if others need to know.
15. **Important contact numbers:** - Parents / carers, GP and paediatrician, therapists and key worker could be listed here.
16. **Keeping up to date:** - It's really important that all the information in the passport is relevant and up to date. If you're not sure, please check with _____ who will make sure it includes everything you'll need to know.
17. **Communication modes:** - Show the dictionary of signs/gestures/expressions/ symbols that the child uses. You could have guidelines for a communication aid or descriptions of gestures

ABOUT ME

Insert Photo of the student

I am _____

I celebrate my Birthday on ___

I am studying in _____

I am a child with Deafblindness/MSI

MY FAMILY

I live with my parents/grandparents/brothers /

Sisters and my family love me a lot

I love my mother _____ very much

My father _____ is a farmer/banker/labour/carpente r

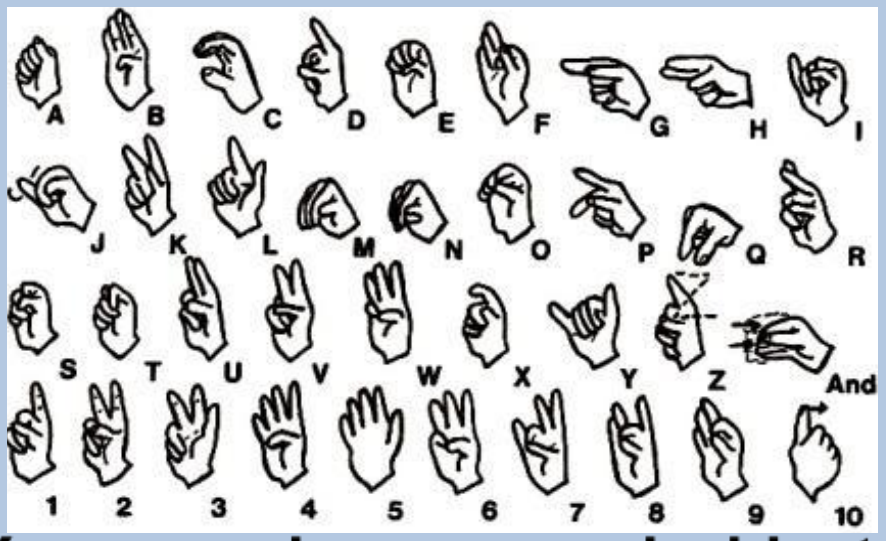
I like my brother _____ very much, because he s with me everyday

My sister _____ takes

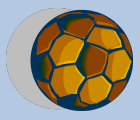
When you want to speak with me?

DO YOU WANT TO SPEAK WITH ME?

simple gestures, finger-spelling, signs in a slow pace in front of my face at about 2 feet distance.



You can also use real objects like ball for play, spoon for eating etc., to make me understand the activity.



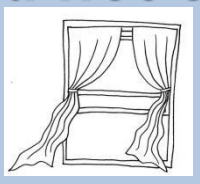


MY SIGHT

Please keep the lights on and the windows open

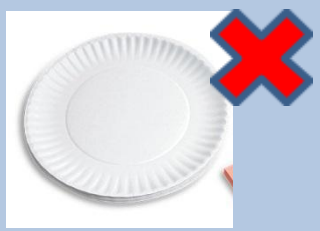


Make sure that the light falls on the things and not on my face



I don’t see objects clearly beyond
2 feet distance

I see better when the things are placed on a plain & contrast background





HEARING

I use hearing aids on b  ears

I love Diwali b  nly on that day I hear sounds repeatedly



Also I hear loud sounds vehicle horn, whistle blowing etc.,

At times I give response to my name call with loud voice

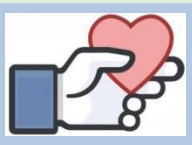
Please check my hearing aids for its proper function before giving it to me



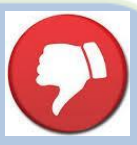
Replac e bat ce in 12 days and keep the ear moulds wax free



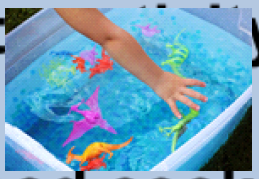
play.



LIKES AND DISLIKES



Learning computers and computer games are my all-time favourit y.





I love all type food cooked by my mother but, it should be warm.



I hate sitting passive
I am fearful about dogs
I don't like the person who doesn't give enough time for me to respond

Please note: This is just a sample personal passport; you can use your own creativity while preparing it at your centre.

