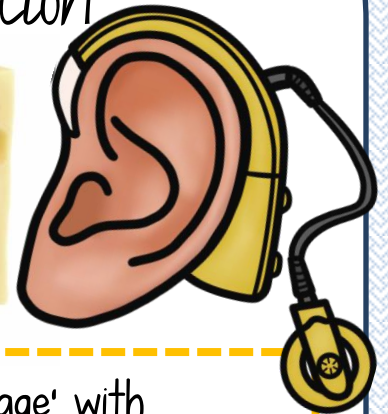


# TIPS & TRICKS

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Edition

Tip of the Week:

LANGUAGE GAPS



Students with hearing loss tend to have 'Swiss cheese language' with unpredictable gaps in vocabulary and their concepts. This is due to the lack of language access to pair with background experiences. We learn by building on background knowledge. However, DHH children lack the language basics of their background knowledge. This leads to students not acquiring language implicitly from their environment like hearing peers. These students need explicit language instruction and examples to fill in the holes in order to follow core instruction and continue building the foundation needed to learn.



Trick to Try:

Provide concrete visuals for concepts and vocabulary. Avoid explaining with just more words. Filling vocab gaps with more unknown vocab doesn't address the issue. Show instead of tell.

Submit questions or topics for more information to [michaela.hartley@midstatespec.org](mailto:michaela.hartley@midstatespec.org)

