Getting your deaf child's attention

One of the everyday challenges families face is getting the attention of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Simply calling their name may not work, especially in busy or noisy environments. Here are some tips:

- **Tap gently**: If you're close, softly tap your child on the shoulder or arm to get their attention.
- **Use visual cues**: Wave, flick the lights, or make a gentle movement they can see.
- **Knock on a surface**: If your child is nearby, knock on a table or the floor to create a vibration they can feel.
- **Say where you are**: Don't just call their name - tell them where you are or they may struggle to find you.
- **Create a family signal**: Use an agreed hand sign, wave, or gesture that means "look at me" or "come here." Use sign language if appropriate and familiar to your child.
- **Send a message**: For older children and teens, send a quick text or vibration alert to their mobile or smartwatch to let them know you need their attention.
- **Move into their line of sight**: Make sure your child can see you when you're trying to communicate.