Language Foundations: Props

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Topics for Consideration

1. What language foundations should a deaf interpreter have?
2. What communication modes should a deaf interpreter have?
3. **What props should a deaf interpreter have?**
4. What kind of assessment should a deaf interpreter have for a lifelong learning process in:
   A. Building on the language foundation
   B. Expanding communication mode skills
Communication Modes

- Sign Language
- Other sign language(s)
- Sign Coded Systems
- Visual Cues
- Gestures
  - Local
  - Regional
  - National
  - International
  - Country (ies)
  - Cultural
- Mime
- Oralism
- Tactile
- Other
Props?

What props should a deaf interpreter have in the “kit”? 
Definition of Props

1. Serves as a means of support or assistance
2. Used as an emphasis or make an impact
3. Used as a reference
4. Used to reveal visual information

As they say, a picture is worth 1,000 words
Why Use Props?

1. Simplify complicated concepts
2. Use visual props for clear visual images (e.g., medical charts and models)
3. Use as a visual point of reference
4. Use as an emphasis (or making a point)
When to Use Props?

1. Receive feedback (backchanneling) that the concept is not clear or complicated.
2. Receive cues that acquired visual information is jumbled, muddled or confusing.
How to Use Props?

1. For possible use of props, check:
   A. Policies/regulations
   B. Site
   C. Specific area (where communication will take place)
   D. Objects/items in the area (can ask if items are available)

2. Use images that are natural and culturally appropriate
Special Considerations

- Choose appropriate props for ages, cultures, educational status and background, life experience, environmental experience
- Use appropriate props to reflect ethnicity and culture
Time Factor Considered

Duration of time in using props needs to be considered; it is done naturally and at its own pace according to one’s ability to get information.
Categories of Props

1. Paper Materials
2. Electronic Materials
3. Toys/Gadgets
4. Other
Paper Materials

1. Paper and pen/markers/soft felt-tip markers/crayons
2. Maps (road/street/area/site/ transportation)
3. Blueprint layout (Floor, building, site)
4. Calendars
5. Drawings
6. Pictures
   A. Communication Board
   B. Picture Book/Album of topics and settings
   C. Photos from books, magazines, digital camera
7. Visual images (topics/settings)
8. Visual dictionaries
9. Pocket size visual language translator
10. Visual Charts
11. Laminated materials
12. Color paper strips (from paint store)
13. Color paper stickers
14. Color construction paper
Electronic Materials

1. Laptop/notebook/portable electronic device (pictures, images/powerpoints of topics/settings/other visual materials)

2. Jump drive/flash memory/portable storage device (pictures, images/PowerPoints of topics/settings/other visual materials)

3. Non-glared screen film for laptops and other electronic devices
Toys/Gadgets

1. Magna Doodle
2. Small toys (e.g., Fisher-Price® Toys – little people, animals, furniture, transportation)
3. Wood sticks (rounded)
Other

1. Magnifying sheet/glass
2. Cloth materials/textiles
3. Objects/items/things
4. Use own body
5. Anatomical Models (medical)
6. Overhead/Video Displays
7. Wood sticks; stones (if outdoors)
8. Chalk (white/color)
9. Portable blackboard/whiteboard
10. Portable easel
Possible props needed for:

1. Deaf-Blind Interpreting
2. Educational Interpreting
3. Legal Interpreting
4. Medical Interpreting
5. Mental Health Interpreting
6. Mirror Interpreting
7. Oral Interpreting
8. Platform Interpreting
9. Religious Interpreting
10. Team Interpreting
11. Transliterating
12. Video Relay Interpreting
13. International Sign Interpreting
14. Physically-challenged Interpreting

... and more
Deaf-Blind Interpreting

Tangible materials

Paper and markers (thin and thick)

Electronic Materials (non-glare films, black on white or white on black PPTs)

Toys/Gadgets

Other
Things to consider …

- Type of vision
- Lighting needs
- Physical needs
- Environmental factor
Educational Interpreting

Magna Doodle
Paper Materials
Electronic Materials
Toys/Gadgets
Other
Things to Consider ...

- Grade levels
- Ages
- Sensitivity issues
Legal Interpreting

- Paper and soft felt-tip markers
- Legal-related pictures
- Paper Materials
- Electronic Materials
Things to Consider ...

- Props are usually NOT be permitted in prison
- Confer with lawyer about using paper and pictures (they may allow the lawyer to carry these items)
FBI & Police Work

Paper Materials
Electronic Materials
Toys/Gadgets
Other
Things to Consider ...

- Safety issues
- Crisis Prevention
  (www.crisisprevention.com)
Medical Interpreting

- Visual Medical Charts
- Anatomical Models
- Visual Objects
- Paper Materials
- Electronic Materials
Things to Consider ...

- Be aware not to touch used items (blood, needles)
- Be aware of numbers and frequency (dose)
Mental Health Interpreting

- Paper Materials
- Electronic Materials
- Toys/Gadgets
- Other
Things to Consider ...

- Be aware not to touch used items (blood, needles)
- Be aware of numbers and frequency (dose)
Mirror Interpreting

PPT/Overhead materials
Paper Materials
Board
Video of the Audience
Things to Consider ...

- Be aware of sensitivity issues
Oral Interpreting

Paper Materials
Electronic Materials
Toys/Gadgets
Other
Things to Consider ...

- Be aware of visual distractions
- Be aware of facial appearance (teeth)
- Be aware of eye strain
Platform Interpreting

Use surroundings by pointing
Things to Consider ...

- Be aware of environmental setting
Religious Interpreting

Use surroundings by pointing
Things to Consider ...

- Be aware of environmental setting
- Be aware of appearance/attire
Team Interpreting

Use props if and when appropriate

Use body if and when necessary
Things to Consider ...

- Be aware of environmental items that can be used for props, if needed
Transliterating

Example: Surveillance

Paper Materials
Electronic Materials
Things to Consider ...

- Check for environmental provision
Video Relay Interpreting

- Paper Materials
- Electronic Materials
- Toys/Gadgets
- Other
Things to Consider ...

- Check and see if props are visible and appropriate
International Sign Interpreting

- Paper Materials
- Electronic Materials
- Toys/Gadgets
- Other
Things to Consider ...

- Use culturally appropriate props
- Be aware of sensitive cultural topics
Physically-Challenged Interpreting

1. Paper Materials
2. Electronic Materials
3. Toys/Gadgets
4. Other
Things to Consider ...

- Be aware of one’s physical ability (ies)
How do you know props are working with the consumer?

1. Receive affirmative cues
2. Receive feedback (backchanneling) showing that information is clear and/or is being followed
3. Receive appropriate responses
4. Ask for feedback, if appropriate
Guiding questions to ask oneself while using props

1. What is the most effective use of props for this situation?
2. Is this prop choice appropriate?
3. What is working?
4. If this is not working and what is my alternative choice? (What is my Plan A, B and C?)
5. If I do this again, how would I do it differently?
Self-Assessment for Prop Using
### Props/Communication Modes

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Helpful Resources

1. Create a list of websites for purchasing props

2. Develop a software/CD/DVD of contents
   (e.g., legal pictures with search features)
Resources

- www.dictionary.com
- www.google.com
- www.ReadingPeople.com
- www.dk.com Human Body 2001
More Resources

Deaf Interpreting Effective Practices
Work experience and feedback contributed by Language Foundations Team Members:

Mark Morales
Terry Malcolm