



Communication Strategies Handout

- 1 Get my visual attention before you speak to me, especially in noisy situations.
- 2 Avoid putting something in front of your mouth when you're speaking – such as your hands, a book, or another object – it makes it difficult for me to see your face clearly and I can't read your lips.
- 3 If you have something in your mouth, such as gum or food, I may have more trouble understanding you.
- 4 Speak clearly and at a moderate pace - but *naturally*.
- 5 Speak in a normal voice - shouting won't help me to understand you any better.
- 6 Avoid noisy situations – the noise makes it difficult for me to understand what you're saying.

Note: These common communication strategies may not be applicable for all cochlear implant users. When you share communication strategies with your peers, customize your suggestions based on what works for you.

