

ICT and Deaf Students' Education

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Abstract

I am working in an educative programme which tries to be an answer to deaf students' education in a double aspect. In one side, deaf people find difficult to gain access to the curriculum since all communication and all kinds of learning are based on oral language. We meet deaf students in Compulsory and post-Compulsory Education whose command of oral language is far from the appropriate for these levels. This can be explained because all the information is received visually which leads to the learning of an idea or a concept but not its oral or written explanation. We need to add the fact that since deaf people lack of the main communication channel for unintentional learning –it is not the same "to hear" and "to listen"- they only learn what they are willing to learn.

On the other side, nowadays, we find deaf students mainstreamed in Compulsory Secondary Education, Baccalaureates, Vocational Studies and Adult Education which means that most of the educative teams at one school can be involved in deaf students' education. We must consider the fact that deafness is not a well understood disability and that all professionals involved in deaf people's education should have basic guidelines and academic orientation.

Schools with deaf students are provided with extra human resources like Sign Language interpreters. Nevertheless, this does not mean that teachers in the different teaching fields are aware of educational methodologies or know how to adapt their contents in order to provide deaf students with suitable means to achieve the same goals as their hearing counterparts.

Objectives of the programme

- To develop methodologies focused on promoting motivation and interest like the task based approach and CLIL, working the curriculum contents focusing in communication, learning Spanish and English, this way, in a more relaxed way – their mother tongue is usually Sign Language-.
- To create specific materials to develop linguistic competence through reading and Web 2.0 tools. Through Web 2.0 tools and digital presentations we encourage our students to build their own knowledge with visual and attractive materials promoting motivation and interest, making them aware, at the same time, that error is part of the learning process.
- To develop the rest of the competences through the above objectives.
- To work on transversals through specific ICT materials so that information is reliable.
- To state information and formation channels for teachers with deaf students in their classes.