



Did you know? - Verbal communication also relies on verbal prompts, clues, gestures and social cues. A visual impairment can affect a person's ability to communicate effectively with others as these could potentially be missed.

There are some simple and easy changes you can make when communicating with a person with a visual impairment to help:

- **Introduce yourself**
- **Ask the person what helps them communicate**
- **Announce when you enter or leave a room**
- **Speak directly to the person, not their companion or guide**
- **Address the person by name so that they know you are talking to them**
- **Describe what you are doing, for example "I am sitting down in the chair opposite you"**
- **Explain where you have placed items, for example "I have placed the drink on the table in front of you"**
- **Use words in addition to gestures to acknowledge what has been said, for example, when nodding your head say yes as well**
- **Be careful with common phrases like "It's over there", this may need further explanation for a person with a visual impairment**
- **Indicate the end of the conversation and explain what you are doing next, as a visual clue such as standing up to leave could be missed**

You can contact your local sensory team for practical advice, information and support around your sight loss and you may be eligible for a Sensory Impairment Assessment. In York, this is the Yorsensory Team, 01904 202292 or email enquiry@yorsensory.org.uk.