



Video Title: Being Present During Socialization: 1 Minute Tips

Melissa: I suggested giving up a little bit of your own break time or a little bit of your own lunchtime to be present when socializing happens, and I'm feeling a little resistance about that, so let me tell you why it's so important. When my son was growing up, we used to go to the McDonald's play places: we had four children, so we really dug the opportunity for them to all go play. Patrick, my oldest, is very social, and he would always go into the play place. About three minutes later, he would come back with one, two, five other kids wanting to play. They would always come back and they would ask the same question, "Can't he talk?" My answer was always the same. "He uses American Sign Language. Do you know American Sign Language?" They would say, "No." And I'd say, "Oh, can you go like this?" [Melissa makes thumbs-up sign.] And they'd say, "Yes." "Can you go like this?" [Melissa makes sign] And they'd say, "Yeah." And then I'd say, "Great," and they would go play for 45 minutes.

Image Description:

Melissa, on the left of the screen, suggests giving up some lunchtime to be available for Deaf students to socialize during lunch. Renea, on the right of the screen, translates in American Sign Language for Melissa. Melissa describes how, when her son Patrick was young, he would bring friends back to play with: Melissa would teach them simple signs so they could communicate with Patrick, who is Deaf and speaks in American Sign Language.