

# **Language Foundations: Props**

**Carole Lazorisak, MA; RID: CDI, RSC;  
ASLTA: Professional; Master Mentor;  
LaGuardia Community College, NYC**

**Deaf Interpreting Critical Issues: Summer  
Symposium on Effective Practices**

**Northeastern University**

**June 2006**

**Clazk@aol.com**

# 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**

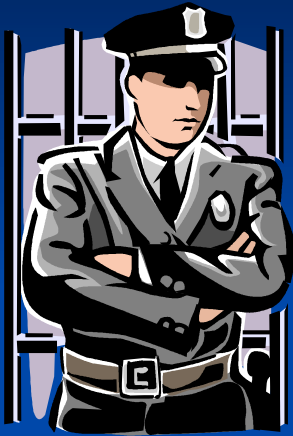


# Things to Consider ...

- 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](http://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)



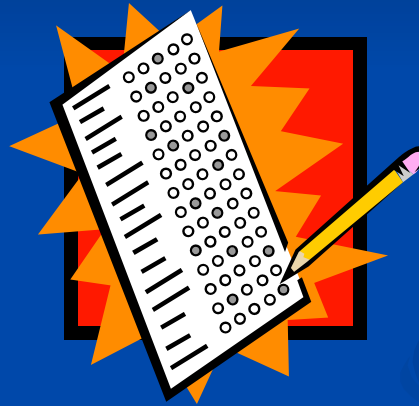
# How do you know props are working with the consumer?

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

Areas	Effectiveness of Props used?	Activity Plans for Prop Development
Sign Language(s)		
Sign Systems		
Visual Cues		
Gestures		
Mime		
Oralism		
Tactile		
Other		

# 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](http://www.dictionary.com)
- [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
- Dimitrius, Jo-Ellan & Mazzarella, Mark, *Reading People*, New York: Ballantine Books 1999
- [www.ReadingPeople.com](http://www.ReadingPeople.com)
- Meader, Jonathan, *The Wordless Travel Book*, CA, Berkeley: The Speed Press 1995
- [www.dk.com](http://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**