

Title Slide: Two Deaf-Blind Colleagues using Haptics

Video image description: Two women seated facing each other with their legs interlocked. They are communicating via American Sign Language (ASL). The woman on the left (Maricar) uses tactile sign language. She is not able to access sign or facial expressions visually. The woman on the right (Sonya) has restricted visual fields and decreased acuities but is able to visually access sign if presented within her field of vision.

In this first clip you will notice Sonya and Maricar having a conversation. They are tapping each other on the leg to indicate they are following along.

Sonya signing: What did you do this weekend?

Maricar signing: Hmm, oh that's right, I was on vacation last week with my husband. We went to visit my family in Canada.

(Sonya is tapping Maricar's leg to indicate she is following along.)

Maricar signing: And then we left to return home on Saturday. We my parent's house Saturday, early, early, like two or three o'clock in the morning. And Don drove all the way back to NY. Took us about 11 hours, so by the time we got back to NY I was pretty pooped and just rested up.

Title Slide: In this next clip, Sonya is using the constant contact technique.

Maricar signing: You know; I was so mad this morning.

(Sonya is tapping Maricar's upper arm to let her know she is following along.)

Maricar signing: I was in this big rush and I ran into my office with my guide dog, Dixie. I didn't realize it, but my husband had left my sandwich from Subway on the table. Anyway, I left Dixie in the office and ran out to do a few things and by the time I got back, my sandwich was gone. I'm looking around for the sandwich and I notice there is lettuce all over the floor.

(Sonya is laughing and using the signal for laugh on Maricar's leg.)

Maricar signing: So obviously Dixie at the sandwich. I just lost it.

Sonya signing: I knew something was up. After lunch, I was out in the hallway and a student called me over. And Dixie, all of a sudden, was by my side, asking me to pet her. She just wasn't acting herself. You know, all innocent.

(Maricar uses the signal for smile on Sonya's leg.)

Sonya signing: I was just about to let you know something was up, but then I noticed the big mess all over the kitchen and thought, hmm, maybe I should stay out of this. She followed me back to my desk and wouldn't leave my side. Obviously she was hiding from you. No wonder!

(Maricar is using the signal for laugh.)

Sonya signing: Did you clean it all up?

Maricar signing: Yup, I cleaned it all up, all taken care of.

Sonya signing: She at the whole thing? Was she sick?

(Maricar is agreeing by tapping on Sonya's knee.)

Maricar signing: Nope, she was fine.

Sonya signing: Oh, she's lucky.

Title slide: Tapping was used again to indicate they were following the conversation. A few signals were also used to share that they were laughing, agreeing, disagreeing and smiling.