

Touch Signals:

Terms to remember

\* ***Note:*** ***These transcripts have been developed for a person who is right hand dominant. If a user is left hand dominant***

***please reverse hands.***

Touch Signals: a generic Term that refers to all systems of providing visual and environmental information through touch including Haptics, BC and BBC.

Sign for Touch Signals:

Place Open 5-Hand across chest over heart and lift and return fingers one at a time in a rapid motion.

Haptics: a standardized system of providing visual and environmental information via touch on the body. Haptics was developed in early 90s in Norway. The creators of this system were deaf-blind. Haptics is used to:

1. Provide information about what is occurring in one’s environment (i.e. two people are walking into the room, woman crying, person raised his hand, there is a plate of donuts in the center of the table).
2. Provide social feedback or one’s own personal responses to an individual who is deaf-blind in one to one and small group settings (i.e. agreeing with their comment, letting the person know you are paying attention - similar to nodding head, laughing at their comment, showing surprise).

Sign for Haptics:

Place left hand in Open 5-handshape on the back of the right hand, moving slowly towards the arm. Then, repeat with the right hand in Open 5-handshape onto the back of the left hand. of chest with palm facing outward. (NOTE: Similar to the sign for GLOVES)

Provider - term to describe the person providing touch signals. A provider can be deaf-blind or hearing/Deaf-sighted.

Sign for Provider:

Place Flat O-Hand at the temple, move hand forward and away from the head while opening hand to become an Open 5-Hand. Close hand to a Closed 5-hand, palm facing left and fingers facing forward and bring down.

Receiver: term to describe the person receiving touch signals A receiver can be deaf-blind or hearing/Deaf-sighted.

Sign for Receiver:

Place right Open 5-Hand on on the right collar bone, surface of contact is the finger tips. Move hand forward and away from shoulder while closing hand to form a Flat 0-Hand. Open hand to form Closed 5-Hand with fingers facing forward and palm facing left then bring hand straight down.

Pro-Tactile (PT): a philosophy and a movement that started in 2007 in Seattle, WA which focusses on autonomy and equality for people who are deaf-blind. PT is much more than a system of touch signals - however within this philosophy there are methods that are used to provide environmental information through touch (BC and BBC)

Fingerspell PT

Back Back Channeling (BBC): A method found under the Pro-Tactile philosophy that is used to provide visual and environmental information to an individual who is deaf-blind by touch on the body (various locations, including the back). This system is purposely not documented or standardized but is developed according to the needs of the individual and the situation at that moment.

Fingerspell BBC

Back Channeling: a method found under the Pro-Tactile philosophy of providing social feedback to an individual who is deaf-blind. This method is used in one to one and group settings to provide personal reactions (i.e. i’m nodding, I’m laughing, I’m disagreeing) - these signals are not standardized or documented but agreed upon between the communication team.

Fingerspell BC

Social Feedback: A term used in Haptics to describe the method of providing social feedback to individuals who are deaf-blind in one to one and small group settings - similar to Back Channeling but these signals are standardized and documented.

Sign: “social feedback”