



Sign language training for parents

Is your child relying on sign language for its communication? If so, you can take part in Sign language training for parents, also known as TUFF. TUFF addresses also persons who have custody of the child or live with one of the child's custodians or parents.

TUFF consists of courses on three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced. In total you can get up to 240 hours of training. The purpose of the training is to give parents the opportunity to use sign language in their daily communication with their child. The training is provided by five organisers across the country.

Different arrangements

The content is the same regardless of organiser, but the arrangements of the courses look a bit different. You may, as a parent, take part in an evening course a few hours per week or attend a camp for a week with the whole family.

As a parent you can study TUFF with the training provider whose arrangement best matches your needs. You can also switch between the different training providers during your 240 hours.

Requirements

Before being admitted to TUFF you need prior knowledge of sign language. By taking an introduction to Swedish sign language arranged by your local county council you will have the knowledge required. Contact the audiology health care services where you live.

Training objectives

The objectives of the training is that you

- understand everyday sign language
- use sign language to describe and explain things
- communicate about everyday subjects and have a certain ability to adapt your language to the situation



- distinguish language structures and follow language norms in Swedish sign language
- have faith in your own language skills and dare to use sign language in everyday situations with persons who speak sign language.

Free training

The training, accommodation and child-minding is free of charge. The family pays for food. You can receive some compensation for loss of income and travel costs from CSN.

More information and application

On our website you can learn more about the locations where TUFF is provided, the various providers and their arrangements, child-minding facilities etc.

You can also contact our TUFF coordinator by e-mail statsbidragsavdelningen@spsm.se or telephone + 46 10-473 50 00

To apply, contact the organiser of your choice. You find links to the organisers on our website www.spsm.se/tuff.

ADVANCED SUPPORT



What is sign language

Swedish sign language is a full language with its own grammar. The language is visual and perceived using the eyes. Sign language utilises the hands, face and upper body. Mouth movements play an important part despite the language not using the voice. Grammatical signals are conveyed using facial expressions, body language and eye movement.

Currently, there are approximately 30,000 persons who are deaf or are hearing impaired in Sweden, and who communicate using Swedish sign language.

The National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools (SPSM) works to ensure that children, youths and adults are able to reach their educational goals regardless of their functional ability. We do this through special needs support, education in special needs schools, accessible teaching materials and government funding. The expertise that we offer supplements the municipalities' and schools' own resources. For more information, see our website www.spsm.se.

SPSM distributes funding to TUFF training providers. The Agency also evaluates the training and arranges network-meetings for teachers.

National Agency for Special Needs
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