

ABOUT ME

I am a dynamic CODA (Child of Deaf Adults) with a decade of multifaceted professional experience. My career has been marked by significant roles as a Sign Language Interpreter, educator, and facilitator, with a deep-seated expertise in Deaf culture and advocacy. My academic foundation is strong, specialising in Sign Language and Deaf Studies. I am adept at bridging communication gaps across various sectors, including legal, educational, medical, and corporate settings. My dedication to accessibility and inclusion has led to fruitful collaborations with civil society organizations, media outlets, and disability support groups. My passion is to champion the Deaf community's comprehensive participation in all aspects of society.

SKILLS

PROVIDING ICT TRAINING
IT AND COMPUTING
ADVOCACY
TEACHING

LANGUAGES

SIGN LANGUAGE
TWI
ENGLISH
GA ADAMBGE

REFERENCES

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JONATHAN DARKO NTIM

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, TEACHER, TRAINER

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WORK EXPERIENCE

JDN SIGN INTERPRETATION SERVICES (FREELANCE)  
Accra  
Aug 2018 - Present

Sign Language Interpreter

- Proficient in high-level sign language interpretation across prominent banking and investment AGMs, with a portfolio including UMB, ABSA, Prudential Securities, etc.
- Demonstrated expertise in facilitating communication for VIPs such as the President of Ghana and the British High Commissioner.
- Experienced in delivering sign language services at major conferences, including BENCHH, the Fidelity Bank Sustainability Conference, etc.
- Dedicated to community outreach, providing voluntary sign language assistance to the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Handpicked as the sign language interpreter for the 2024 CRPD Conference at the UN Office in Geneva, underscoring exceptional skill and commitment.

GHANA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF  
Accra  
Jan 2020 - Present

Sign Language Interpreter/ IT Support

- Expert Sign Language Interpreter with extensive experience in facilitating effective communication at G.N.A.D. conferences, workshops, and training sessions.
- Skilled IT Support Specialist recognized for my ability to troubleshoot and resolve complex technical issues, ensuring organizational efficiency.
- Proficient Social Media Manager with a proven track record of driving digital engagement and significantly enhancing online presence across multiple platforms.
- Effective Team Player who collaborates seamlessly with executive leadership and staff to achieve operational excellence and improve communication strategies.
- Dedicated Ghanaian Sign Language Educator committed to teaching and empowering diverse groups—including students, businesses, NGOs, and healthcare providers—to actively engage with the Deaf community.

GHANA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (GBC)  
Accra  
Jan 2019 - Present

Sign Language Interpreter

- Delivering comprehensive sign language interpretation for GBC's evening news, thereby enhancing accessibility for the deaf audience.
- Successfully facilitated sign language interpretation for the program "ASK THE INFO MINISTRY" on GBC, contributing significantly to crucial discussions regarding COVID-19.
- Provided sign language interpretation for GBC's "Presidential Encounter" show, thereby supporting the democratic process during an election year.

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA  
Accra  
Sep 2019 - Aug 2020

Sign Language Interpreter (NSS)

- I played a crucial role as a dedicated Sign Language Interpreter for deaf students in various programs at the University of Ghana, including Social Work and Law.
- I made significant contributions to pioneering research on deafness and genetic inheritance in collaboration with the West Africa Center for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP).
- Moreover, I was instrumental in developing and producing a docudrama that showcased WACCBIP's groundbreaking research findings.

VODAFONE GHANA DEAF SUPPORT UNIT (SHIS) NOW (TELCEL DEAF SUPPORT UNIT)  
Accra  
Jan 2012 - Feb 2025

Sign Language Interpreter

- Supported the comprehensive training of Deaf agents in the Super Care unit, ensuring effective service delivery for Deaf customers.
- Provided real-time interpretation for Deaf clients, facilitating seamless communication and support.
- Served as a communication liaison between Deaf agents and management, promoting an inclusive work environment.
- Contributed to the development of an innovative advertisement for the Super Care product launch, enhancing brand visibility.

RLG INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
Koforidua  
Jan 2012 - May 2015

Sign Language Interpreter/Trainer

- Provided expert interpretation for Deaf students, improving their communication and learning experiences.
- Led ICT and mobile phone repair training programs for Deaf students, promoting the development of technical skills and self-sufficiency.
- Successfully managed two educational centres in Manpong Akuapim and Akropong from 2014 to 2015, offering inclusive training to individuals with and without disabilities.

ANTIOCH BIBLE CHURCH  
Tema  
Jan 2007 - Dec 2023

Sign Language Interpreter

- Facilitated effective communication for the Deaf community at various church events, ensuring inclusive participation in services, counselling sessions, and seminars.
- Collaborated in organizing a range of church initiatives, including marriage workshops, youth empowerment series (ICANDO), and children's activities (AWANA).
- Served as a dedicated youth leader, offering mentorship and support under pastoral guidance.
- Enhanced guest experiences by providing seamless sign language interpretation for international visitors during youth-focused programs.

EASTERN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF  
Koforidua  
Jan 2005 - Feb 2025

Sign Language Interpreter

- I effectively facilitated communication between the deaf and hearing communities across various settings, including religious services, educational institutions, organizational meetings, training sessions, workshops, and in-home services.
- As a vital liaison, I connected the deaf community with government entities, such as Municipal, Metropolitan, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and Social Welfare departments.
- I provided crucial sign language interpretation to resolve family matters, significantly enhancing understanding and support within the deaf community.
- Moreover, I delivered essential interpreting services at healthcare facilities and security service centers, including police stations, ensuring equitable access for the deaf.

EDUCATION

CAPE COAST UNIVERSITY  
2018

Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting

- Acquired foundational language skills as a Child of Deaf Adults (CODA) with Ghanaian Sign Language (GSL) as my first language.
- Pursued a Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting, enhancing my innate abilities with professional training and discipline.
- Gained expertise in linguistics, Deaf culture, ethics of interpretation, and advanced communication techniques.
- Transitioned from home-based signing to adhering to professional interpreting standards, separating personal identity from the interpreter role.
- Engaged in diverse fieldwork, interpreting in educational, medical, legal, and public event settings, emphasizing responsibility and cultural awareness.
- Overcame challenges of professional boundary setting and self-doubt, ensuring justice to both spoken and sign languages in high-pressure situations.
- Leveraged my CODA background for a deeper connection with the Deaf community, anticipating needs beyond words and advocating for their experiences.
- Emerged as a committed advocate for communication accessibility, inclusivity, and societal empowerment through sign language interpreting.
- Continuously apply university-learned skills as a freelance interpreter, focusing on human connection and striving for daily impact in the field.

AMERICAN BIBLE UNIVERSITY  
Tema  
2016

Degree in Theology (Bible Studies)

- Acquired a profound foundation in faith and ministry from a Christian upbringing and pastoral family environment.
- Deepened theological expertise through formal education in biblical hermeneutics, church history, Christian ethics, and pastoral care.
- Embraced the concept of servant leadership, refining skills in humility and dedication to shepherd communities.
- Enhanced inclusivity in ministry as a CODA, focusing on making the Gospel accessible to diverse populations.
- Underwent significant personal and spiritual growth, developing discipline, patience, and a commitment to prayer and study.
- Cultivated a versatile ministry approach, extending beyond traditional church settings to include sign language interpretation and advocacy.
- Integrated theological education with a personal calling, resulting in a holistic approach to serving God and humanity.

KNUSTFORD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
Accra  
2015

Certificate in Sign Language and Disability Studies

- Attained a Certificate in Sign Language and Deaf Studies, leveraging my background as a CODA to enhance formal education and certification.
- Achieved fluency in Ghanaian Sign Language (GSL) and mastered linguistic structures, interpreting techniques, ethical considerations, and cultural sensitivities.
- Gained a comprehensive understanding of Deaf culture, history, and the challenges Deaf individuals face in various societal sectors.
- Emphasized Deaf rights and advocacy, learning about global and local efforts to promote Deaf inclusion and accessibility.
- Acquired practical interpreting experience in diverse settings, under professional supervision, honing adaptability, confidentiality, and professionalism.
- Developed the ability to adjust signing style for formal interpreting environments, ensuring message accuracy and neutrality.
- Solidified my commitment to the Deaf community, recognizing interpreting as a calling and advocating for full societal inclusion.
- Established a strong foundation for a career in interpreting, with the educational journey enhancing professional credibility and fueling a passion for advocacy.

OYOKO METHODIST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
Koforidua  
2013

West Africa Senior School Certificate (WASSCE) Visual Arts

- Specialized in Visual Arts with core subjects including General Knowledge in Art (GKA), Graphics, and Sculpture.
- Complemented arts education with academic subjects: Economics, Mathematics, English, Science, and Social Studies.

SARKODIE L/A J.S.S  
2009

Basic Education Certificate

HOBBIES

PHOTOGRAPHY, SWIMMING, VIDEO GAMES, LISTENING TO MUSIC AND READING.

INTERNSHIPS

AUNTIE LUCY WELLNESS CENTER  
Accra  
Nov 2015 - Nov 2016

Wellness Assistant

After completing high school, I had the invaluable opportunity to intern under a wellness coach, an experience that played a pivotal role in shaping who I am today. During my internship, I was introduced to the principles of holistic well-being, discipline, and the importance of effective communication in guiding and supporting others. Observing how wellness programs were tailored to meet individual needs deepened my understanding of accessibility and inclusivity, particularly in health and wellness spaces. This hands-on experience not only refined my ability to work with diverse individuals but also reinforced my passion for advocacy and service. It taught me the significance of patience, empathy, and adaptability—skills that have been instrumental in my career as a Sign Language Interpreter. Today, my approach to bridging communication gaps is deeply rooted in these lessons, ensuring that Deaf individuals receive the same quality of information, guidance, and empowerment in all aspects of life.

GRATIS FOUNDATION  
Tema  
May 2009 - Sep 2009

Student

Having graduated from junior high school, I was lucky to apply for an internship at the GRATIS Foundation, a foundation that deals with providing hands-on skills in different crafts, including mechanics, catering, and batik tie-dye. Being someone who has always had a great desire to learn and explore different crafts, I opted to major in batik tie-dye, where I learned the detailed process of designing fabrics, color mixing, and printing garments. My initial days at GRATIS were challenging as well as exciting. I soon understood that the artwork needed patience, accuracy, attention to detail, and creativity. I learned about mixing colors to get vibrant patterns and mastered various techniques to produce distinctive designs on the fabric. This practical experience made me greatly appreciate the value of craftsmanship and the significance of learning by skills.

In retrospect, my experience at GRATIS was not only an initiation into textile art but actually developed my manual dexterity, creative thinking, and attention to detail—skills that have significantly shaped my sign language interpretation style. In the same way that designing fabric involves attention to detail, cultural awareness, and flexibility in order to convey messages accurately and meaningfully, so does interpreting. This initial experience opened my eyes to the value of skill development, thereby influencing my dedication to a lifetime of learning and perfection in all that I do.