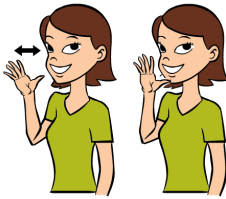


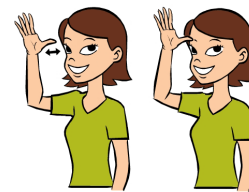
MONTESSORI FOR THE HOME

Sign language with your infant

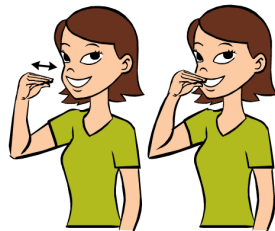
Why should you teach your infant sign language? The definition of sign language says, "Any means of communication through bodily movements, especially of the hands and arms, rather than through speech..." (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sign%20language>) Research has shown five important reasons why sign language can help you and your child at home. According to [healthyfoundations.com](http://www.healthfoundations.com), "sign language can 1. help babies talk sooner... and boost spoken vocabulary, 2. empower babies to direct adults' attention to what they want to talk about, 3. reduce frustration, 4. provide a strong foundation for early literacy, and 5. stimulate intellectual development." Follow the steps below to teach your infant the five signs to communicate easily.



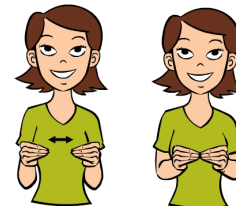
Mommy is signed by tapping your thumb on your chin. In ASL female signs are usually below the nose, and male signs above the nose.



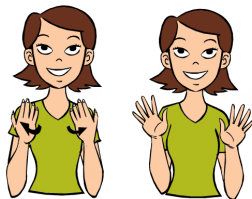
Dad is signed by tapping your thumb on your forehead. The signs for *mom* and *dad* are similar, however, the *mom* sign is performed on the chin and the *dad* sign is performed higher up on the forehead.



Eat looks like you are putting food to your mouth, with your thumb to your fingers. *Eat* is particularly useful for babies on solids.



More is signed by tapping your finger tips together. This is a very versatile sign useful in many contexts, and is often the first sign learned.



All done is signed by twisting your hands back and forth. It allows baby to tell you they are finished eating (without finishing food).