



HELLO PARENTS,

Sign language is considered a world language, the same as any other spoken language. Sign language that we can teach hearing children is a simplified version that uses selected words that help young children express their needs and communicate even before they learn to talk. The ability to communicate decreases frustration and fosters early language development as children begin to associate words and actions, and learn the meaning of words. In this newsletter, you will find easy ways to engage your child in learning basic sign language.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

SIGNS: "MORE," "ALL DONE," "EAT"

MATERIALS:

- Your child's lunch or snack
- A high-chair/tray
- Signs for "more", "eat", and "all done" ([Click here](#) for signs)

DIRECTIONS:

- Put some food on the tray or start feeding your child.
- Let the child eat and explore the food.
- Ask your child if they want "more" food by saying the word slowly and making the sign.
- Continue by adding more food and encourage your child to repeat the words and signs.
- When your child does not want any more food, say and use the sign "all done" and remove the food from the tray.

[Click here](#) for more words in sign language.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

PLAYING AND LEARNING

MATERIALS:

- Different toys (ball, train, cars, doll, etc.)
- Signs for toy names (found in the link below)

DIRECTIONS:

- Give the toys to your child and let them play.
- When the child picks up a toy (e.g. a ball), show them the sign for the toy (make the sign of the ball).
- Continue interaction with your child for other toys and ask your child to say the words and sign after you.
- Try to use other signs such as, "play", "your turn", "my turn", etc.

[Click here](#) for signs of different toys.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

GO, STOP, WAIT!

MATERIALS:

- Signs for "[go](#)", "[stop](#)", and "[wait](#)" (click on each word to learn the signs)

DIRECTIONS:

- Line up all the players on one side (you can play this game outside or in a large room indoors).
- One player will be the signer on the opposite side.
- The signer signs "Go" and the players move forward until the signer signs "Stop".
- Everyone waits without moving while the signer signs "Wait".
- When the signer signs "Go" everyone moves forward again until the signer signs "Stop" again.
- If the runner does not stop when the "Stop" is signed, they must go back to the beginning.
- Continue like this until the first person reaches the other side and now becomes the next signer.

[Click here](#) for more signing activities.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

GUESS WHAT I AM!

MATERIALS:

- Different toys and objects

DIRECTIONS:

- Choose a toy, hide it behind your back, and describe it by using signs.
- Have your child guess and find which object you are hiding.
- Let your child take turns in guessing and describing the toy.
- Whoever guesses the most toys wins the game.

[Click here](#) to learn how to sign animals.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

ALPHABET SIGN LANGUAGE CHARADE

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Scissor
- Pencil
- Bowl

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to watch the "Learn the alphabet" sign language video.
- Practice the signs as you watch the video.
- Cut the paper in square pieces.
- Write down each letter from the alphabet on separate pieces of paper and put them in a bowl.
- One player chooses a card from the bowl and signs the letter chosen (example: if you chose the letter B, you sign the letter and the other players have to guess it).
- For a more challenging activity write down different words on a piece of paper (example: more, thank you, yes, no, mine, please, etc.)
- Sign the word that you choose, and the other players have to guess the word.

[Click here](#) to learn how to sign more objects.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Learn together with your child.
- Try using different words/signs every day with your child.
- Say the words slowly and clearly as you make the signs.
- Be consistent; the more you practice, the faster your child will begin to use sign language to communicate.