



Using Key Word Signing at Kindergarten

There are lots of good reasons to use signing

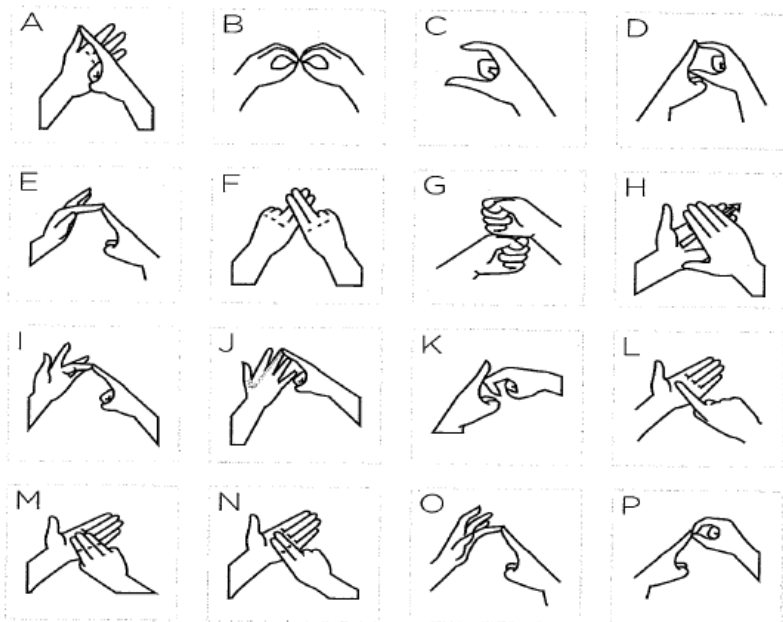
- ▶ If you have a child who uses signing as a means of communication, then you will need to use signs to communicate with that child.
- ▶ Some children with additional needs use Key Word Signing to augment their speech and communicate basic needs.
- ▶ Key Word Signing can provide an additional cue for your message to a child.
- ▶ Learning key word signs can provide future opportunities for communicating in the community.
- ▶ Key Word Signing is a great and fun ‘language’ to teach children.

Best ways to learn

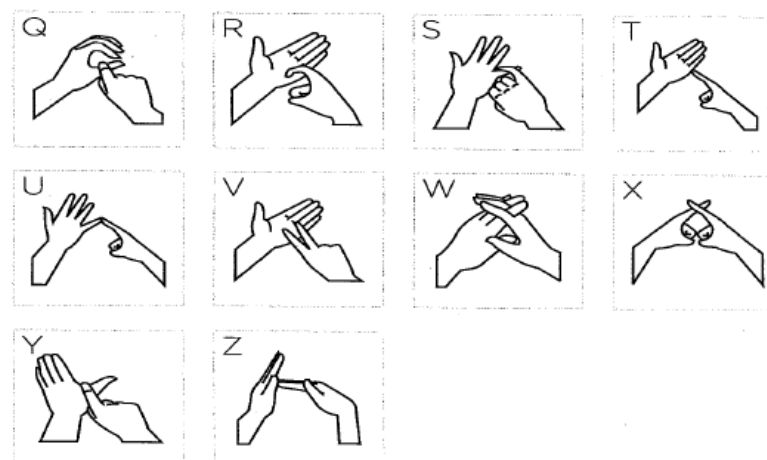
- ▶ Immerse yourself and your children in using signing. Begin by learning some basic signs and use them throughout the day when following routines and giving instructions.
- ▶ Model hello, goodbye, good work, eat, drink, toilet, my turn, your turn as you interact with the children and other educators.
- ▶ Use singing and signing during group activities.
- ▶ Put Key Word Signing charts up in the environment.
- ▶ Purchase SCOPE Key Word Signing book to refer to during session and model for children looking for a word and then using/practicing it.
- ▶ Invite a trained specialist (e.g. Speech Pathologist) to come into the program to model signing for children and educators.

Finger Spelling Alphabet

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Name signs

The first letter of a person's name can be used for a name sign.
So for Hope, signing the first letter H and saying "Hope".

Teaching signing through songs



Start with basic signs

Natural Gestures



Hello
Move open dominant hand side to side in air at chest height, palm away from body. (Natural Gesture).



Goodbye
Use dominant hand, palm forward and bend fingers onto palm, twice. Or may move open dominant hand side to side in air at chest height, like "Hello". (Natural Gesture).



Come
Bend dominant hand at third knuckles, palm toward body, several times. (Natural Gesture).



See/Look
Move dominant index finger forward from eye. *May use index and middle fingers slightly apart. (Natural Gesture).

Natural Gestures



Here
Point dominant index finger downwards in front of body, palm down. (Natural Gesture).



There
Point dominant index finger away from body, palm down. (Natural Gesture).



I/Me
Point to self using extended dominant index finger. (Natural Gesture).



You
Point extended dominant index finger forward or toward person. (Natural Gesture).

Natural Gestures



Put
Place dominant fingertips on ball of thumb, move forward opening hand and fingers. (Natural Gesture - mime the action). *Note directionality, placement and shape.



Good
Extend dominant thumb, close rest of fingers into fist; thumb pointing up, move forward with stress. (Natural Gesture).



Up
Point extended dominant index finger up. Move formation up. (Natural Gesture).



Down
Point extended dominant index finger down. Move formation down. (Natural Gesture).

Natural Gestures



Big
Place both open hands, palms facing body, fingers spread in front of body, one hand in front of the other. Move hands out to either side in an arc. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).



Little/Small
Move open hands close to each other, palms facing. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).



Tiny
Extend dominant index finger and thumb, finger and thumb held close together. Hold at chest height and may move forward with stress. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).



Car
Clench both fists in front of body - move formation as if holding an imaginary steering wheel. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).

Basic signs cont...

Natural Gestures



Stop
Move open dominant hand forward, palm away from body, from shoulder height. (Natural Gesture)



Wash/Bath
Mime washing the part of the body or object. (Natural Gesture - mime the action)



Open
Open both hands, palms facing body and fingertips touching. Move hands apart to finish with fingers pointing away from body. (Natural Gesture - mime the action)



Close/Shut
With both hands open, place non-dominant hand fingernails on heel of dominant hand. Close dominant hand to rest on back of non-dominant hand. (Natural Gesture - mime the action)

Natural Gestures



He/She
Point dominant index finger, palm down. Point to the person and move index finger down slightly for added emphasis. (Natural Gesture)



They/Them
Point dominant index finger, away from body, palm down. Sweep formation across to indicate group. (Natural Gesture)



It/That/This
Point dominant index finger, palm down. Point to the object or place and move index finger down slightly for added emphasis. (Natural Gesture)



These/Those
Point dominant index finger, away from body, palm down. Move finger in a circle to indicate items. (Natural Gesture)

Natural Gestures



We/Us
Point to self using extended dominant index finger and move the same finger in a sweeping motion to indicate the others. (Natural Gesture)



Baby
Cradle one arm with the other, in front of body, and gently move from side to side as if rocking a baby. (Natural Gesture)



Wait
Bounce open dominant hand, palm down, in front of dominant side, twice. *May use both hands. (Natural Gesture)



Run
Move fists in alternate forward circles, as if running. (Natural Gesture - mime the action)

Natural Gestures



Inside
Point dominant index finger, palm down, move towards the body over the top of barrier of open non-dominant hand. (Natural Gesture - mime the action)



Outside
Point dominant index finger, palm down, move away from body over the top of barrier of open non-dominant hand. (Natural Gesture - mime the action)



Push
Place both open hands at shoulder height, palms facing away from body. Simultaneously push both hands forward. (Natural Gesture - mime the action)



Pull
Hold dominant fist in front of body, palm in. Pull back towards body. (Natural Gesture - mime the action)

Basic signs cont...

Natural Gestures



We/Us

Point to self using extended dominant index finger and move the same finger in a sweeping motion to indicate the others. (Natural Gesture).



Baby

Cradle one arm with the other in front of body and gently move from side to side as if rocking a baby. (Natural Gesture).



Wait

Bounce open dominant hand, palm down, in front of dominant side, twice. *May use both hands. (Natural Gesture).



Run

Move fists in alternate forward circles, as if running. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).

Natural Gestures



Inside

Point dominant index finger, palm down, move towards the body over the top of barrier of open non-dominant hand. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).



Outside

Point dominant index finger, palm down, move away from body over top of barrier of open non-dominant hand. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).



Push

Place both open hands at shoulder height, palms facing away from body. Simultaneously push both hands forward. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).



Pull

Hold dominant fist in front of body palm in. Pull back towards body. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).

Natural Gestures



Brush Hair

Use dominant hand and mime brushing hair. Imagine holding a hair brush. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).



Brush Teeth

Use dominant hand and mime brushing teeth in short up and down movements. Imagine holding a toothbrush. (Natural Gesture - mime the action).



One

Extend dominant index finger, finger pointing up, palm towards body. (Natural Gesture).



Two

Extend dominant index and middle fingers, fingers pointing up and slightly apart, palm towards body. (Natural Gesture).

Natural Gestures



Three

Extend dominant index, middle and ring fingers, fingers pointing up and slightly apart, palm towards body. (Natural Gesture).



Four

Extend dominant index, middle, ring and little fingers, fingers pointing up and slightly apart, tuck dominant thumb into palm, palm towards body. (Natural Gesture).



Five

Extend all fingers and thumb of dominant hand, fingers pointing up and slightly apart, palm towards body. (Natural Gesture).

Resources

- ▶ SCOPE song Book: <https://www.scopeaust.org.au/information-resources-hub/nurseryrhymes/>
- ▶ Getting Started Key Word Sign book: <https://shop.scopeaust.org.au/shop/getting-started-key-word-sign-auslan-edition/>
- ▶ To book into a key word signing workshop or to organise one at your workplace: <https://keywordsignvictoria.org/>