Signing to Support Children's Language Development

Why Sign?

- Builds on natural ability to gesture
- Improves attention and listening
- Pressure for speech is removed
- Language is simplified and slowed down
- Aids comprehension and helps children express themselves
- It is a visual reinforcement to speech
- A bridge to developing spoken language.

Who For?

- All children
- Children with communication difficulties:
  - Delayed understanding
  - Delayed expression
  - Unclear speech
- Children who find it difficult to listen
- Children with English as an additional language

How to Sign:

1. Gain child's attention and make eye contact first.
2. Always accompany signs with clear speech and facial expression.
3. Sign 'key words' – words that are important for meaning. Keep simple and short.
4. Reward any attempt to communicate.
5. Signs need to be used by everyone in the setting with all children.
6. Keep signing, even if the child doesn't readily copy.
7. Many children need hand over hand help to start signing.
8. Use signs that your child will be motivated by.
9. Signing skills are developed over time through practice and repetition.
10. Have Fun!

TARGET SETTING:

3 Signs I will use – …………………………………
………………………………
………………………………

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<td>Sheep</td>
<td>Raisin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Swing</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Sandwich</td>
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<td>* More</td>
<td>Teddy bear</td>
<td>Want</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>Toast</td>
<td>Yoghurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Gone</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Wash</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>Yoghurt</td>
<td>Yoghurt</td>
</tr>
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* These signs have been added in keeping with local use in Oxfordshire 2009.
General

I/me
- Point to self.

You
- Point to person concerned.

Hello
- Wave once.

Goodbye
- Wave.

Good
- Closed hand with thumb up makes short movement forward.

Please
- Move hand down from mouth until palm up.

Thank you
- Move hand away from mouth, shorter movement.

Finish
- Closed hands spring open.

Same
- Index fingers tap together twice.

Different
- Index fingers move apart.
Hands clap together in circular movements.

Flat hand down middle of face.

Alternate clawed hands move up body sharply.

Shake hand/s in front of chest.

Draw hand across forehead.

Shake index finger side to side.

Move flat hand/s in circular movements.

Thumb and little finger extended move side to side.

Hands together pull apart.

Index and thumb show size.
Slightly bent hand slots between thumb and fingers of other hand.
Place back of hand onto back of other hand.
Flat hand moves under top hand.
Rub wrists together.
Fingers of bent hands open and close onto thumbs several times.

Place hand over fist.
Use TWO hands, facing in/down flip over.
Index and middle finger twist out from forehead.

In
On
Under
Dirty
Wet

More
Gone
Name

General 3

In
On
Under
Dirty
Wet

* More
* Gone
Name

Gone
Name

Index and middle finger twist out from forehead.
Common Objects

- **Bag**: Mime holding bag.
- **Ball**: Indicate shape of ball.
- **Bicycle**: Closed hands ‘pedal’ in circles.
- **Book/story**: Open two flat hands.
- **Brick**: Fist over fist.
- **Bus**: Mime holding big steering wheel.
- **Car**: Mime holding steering wheel.
- **Chair**: Closed hands move down.
- **Coat**: Mime pulling coat over shoulders.
- **Computer**: ‘C’ hands circle.
- **Crayon/Pencil**: Mime holding pencil and writing.
- **Cup/drink**: Mime holding cup, bring to mouth.
Common Objects 2

**Doll**
Mime holding doll.

**Hat**
Mime putting hat on head.

**House**
Flat hands move down and out.

**Outside**
Bent hand moves forward.

**Plate**
Index finger makes circle over palm up hand.

**Puzzle**
Mime fitting puzzle together with thumbs.

**Sand**
Thumbs rub along fingertips as hands move up.

**School/Nursery**
Circle hand in front of mouth.

**Shoe**
Hand covers hand.

**Sock**
Index and thumb hold sock. Both hands for plural.

**Spoon**
Bring index and middle finger to mouth.

**Swing**
Closed hands move back and forth.

**Common Objects 3**

- **Teddy Bear**
  - Hands hold arms.

- **Telephone**
  - Thumb and little finger extended.

- **Television**
  - Finger spell ‘T’ and ‘V’.

- **Toilet**
  - Fingers rub opposite shoulder.

- **Train**
  - Closed hand moves in circles.

- **Trousers/Pants**
  - Flat hands move short way down each leg.

- **Water**
  - Palm down hand moves sideways in wavy motion.
**Actions**

- **Bath**: Hands rub on chest and tummy.
- **Brush**: Mime brushing hair.
- **Come**: Index finger towards body.
- **Cook**: Mime mixing in a bowl.
- **Cry**: Index fingers move down face.
- **Cut**: Mime cutting with fingers (for scissors).
- **Drink**: Take hand to mouth as if holding cup.
- **Eat**: Take bunched hand to mouth twice.
- **Give**: Move TWO flat hands in direction of object given.
- **Go**: Index finger moves in appropriate direction.
Index finger moves forward. Hand to ear. Open index and middle finger move forward from eye. Hands crossed over chest.

Index and middle finger jump/bend from back of hand. Index finger moves forward. Hand to ear. Open index and middle finger move forward from eye. Hands crossed over chest.

Move index and middle finger up and down. Open hands move out and up in circles. Mime running with arms. Index and middle finger circle up from mouth. Flat hands on top of each other move down.
Actions 3

Sleep/Tired/Bed
Hands together at side of head. Close eyes for sleep.

Stand Up
Scoop and raise flat hands.

Swim
Mime swimming.

Wait/Stop
Move flat hand forward.

Walk
Index and middle fingers mime walking.

Want
Flat hand brushes down and out from chest.

Wash
Mime appropriate washing action.
Fingers spring open from fist under chin.
Index finger and thumb open and close.
Open index and middle fingers move away from side of mouth.
Move elbows in and out.
Move hands away from head (holding horns).
Flat hands open and close.

Animals

Bird
Cat
Chicken
Cow
Crocodile

Index finger and thumb open and close.
Open index and middle fingers move away from side of mouth.
Move elbows in and out.
Move hands away from head (holding horns).
Flat hands open and close.

Dog
Duck
Elephant
Fish
Frog

Index and middle fingers move down twice.
Index, middle finger and thumb open and close.
Hand moves out from face (as trunk).
Flat hand wiggles across body.
Fingers spring open from fist under chin.
Index and middle fingers over index and middle fingers.

Hands over head then clawed hands in circular movements.

Hands scratch under arms.

Index and middle fingers run up hand.

Fist makes circular movement in front of nose.

Index and middle fingers bend at side of head.

Little fingers circle from side of face.

Index and middle finger spring forward from mouth.

Animals 2

* Horse
Lion
Monkey
Mouse
Pig

Rabbit
Sheep
Snake

*
Food

Apple
Mime biting apple.

Banana
Mime peeling banana.

Biscuit
Tap elbow twice.

Bread
Saw across hand.

Cake
Clawed hand on palm down hand.

Carrot
Fist bends forward as if holding and biting carrot.

Cheese
Bent hand on palm.

Chocolate
’C’ hand circles on chin.

Crisps
Mime the packet and taking crisps to mouth.

Dinner
Index and middle fingers move alternatively to mouth.

Grape
Mime picking grape.

Ice-cream
Mime licking ice-cream.
Food 2

Juice
Thumb comes down over lips to chin, fingers flutter.

Milk
Mime milking cow.

Orange
Hand makes squeezing action at side of mouth.

Pear
Index and middle finger twist at side of mouth.

Raisin
Make small circles with index finger.

Sandwich
Place flat hands together.

Toast
Hand comes up as if out of toaster.

Yoghurt
Finger spell 'Y' then dip index and middle finger into pot and take to mouth.

Water
Tip hand with thumb extended to mouth, to drink.
Finger spell 'M' and tap twice.

People

Mother/Mummy
Father/Daddy
Baby
Boy
Girl
Grandmother
Grandfather
Man
Lady
Children

Finger spell 'M' and tap twice.
Finger spell 'F' and tap twice.
Rock baby.
Brush index finger under chin.
Brush index finger twice on side of lips.
Flat hand indicates heads of children.

Finger spell 'G' and tap 'M' twice.
Finger spell 'G' and tap 'F' twice.
Draw fingers and thumb down and together.
Brush index finger along cheek to chin.
Hold own hand and shake.
Index and thumb hold wrist.
Alphabet

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
G H I J K L
Alphabet 2

M N O P Q R S
T U V W X Y Z

T U V W X Y Z