

Recommended First Signs

for all babies

MOMMY
DADDY
EATING
DRINKING
HUNGRY
FULL
MILK
BED
BATH

ANOTHER
AGAIN
MORE
HAVE/HAS
BOOK
BALL
MY/MINE
YOUR

PLEASE
LAUGHING
CRYING
BYE-BYE
WHERE
THANK YOU
TURN-THE-PAGE
ALL-DONE/FINISH

For information, check out these websites:

National Association of the Deaf: Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers
<http://www.nad.org/issues/early-intervention>

Sign 2 Me: Early Learning Resources
<http://sign2me.com/>

Baby Fingers
<http://www.mybabyfingers.com/>

Handout from:

Baby Signing: Explosion, Empirical Research, and Implications for EHDI Programming Poster Presentation.
Michelle Brown¹, Ye-Kyung An², Alison Gannon¹, Brenda Seal PhD^{1,2} (¹Gallaudet Uni., ²James Madison Uni.)
EHDI Conference 2011, Atlanta, GA

How to Sign to Babies

Borrowing from ASL parents

- Holding baby on the lap with his/her back to the parent's stomach enables adult arms and hands to embrace the baby's arms and hands to form and move signs – perfect for book sharing.
- Signing on the baby's body when carrying him/her gives tactile information about sign location and movement, and facial information is more easily matched with signs when carrying the baby.
- Encouraging parents to use principles of “motherese” when they sign (emphasizing signs by adjusting their rate, size, duration, and frequency) is important in making them interesting and interactive.

With Cautions from YouTube

- Cautioning parents not to refer to their use of signs as a language – without the morphology, pragmatics, and syntax, signs from ASL are simply signs, not sign language.
- Cautioning parents not to accept indiscriminate movements as the long-term baby sign: Motor skills improve over time and BS should be held to closer approximations.
- Flash cards and DVDs cannot provide the same experiential and contextual support that signing while feeding, bathing, and dressing the baby provides. Signing should be interactive, even when a computer or television monitor is used as the source of the sign vocabulary.

Seal, B. (2010, November 02). About Baby Signing. *The ASHA Leader*.

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