

## Chapter 1 : Baby Sign Language - Communicate With Your baby

*Sign2Me Early Learning's Best Seller, "Sign with your Baby" is truly the Grandfather of all ASL Baby Sign Language programs! This is the program that launched the ASL Baby Sign Language revolution. This book teaches hearing parents how to use simple sign language gestures to communicate with their hearing infants before their infants can speak.*

Content provided on this site is for entertainment or informational purposes only and should not be construed as medical or health, safety, legal or financial advice. Click here for additional information. Since hand eye coordination develops sooner than verbal skills, babies can learn simple signs for common words. At first I thought it would be some hokey bologna but gave it a try. It was one of the first realizations of a parent that I can teach my child and they will do it. In addition to of course understanding more of what my baby wanted or needed. Our second and third child were also introduced to baby sign language. Our toddler, while he talks "still" still emphasizes words with signing. Baby sign language experts suggest starting use of signing around the age of 6 months. How to Baby Sign: Mom 1 of 15 Open your hand and move it towards your mouth - thumb facing you. Dad 2 of 15 Open your hand move it towards your forehead - thumb facing your mouth. Grandma 3 of 15 Similar to the baby sign for "mom" but your bouncing twice. Grandpa 4 of 15 Similar to the baby sign for "dad" but your bouncing twice. Sister 5 of 15 Extend your thumb and index fingers on both hands. Take your strong hand and start with your thumb under your jaw. Then move the strong hand and tap it down on top of your weak hand. Brother 6 of 15 Make both hands into an "L-shape" with your thumb and index finger extended. Hold your weak hand down by your chest. Take your strong hand and starting at the forehead, bring the hand down to your weak hand. Eat 7 of 15 Fingers pinched - bring them towards your mouth as if you are eating them. This is also the sign for food. Drink 8 of 15 Hold your hand as if you are holding a cup and pretend to drink - hence the baby sign for "drink". More 9 of 15 Fingers pinched, move them together to sign "more". All Done 10 of 15 Palms out, then flip palms in. My toddler flaps his hands back and forth still when "all done". Happy 11 of 15 Palms spread towards your chest and flare up, showing "happy". I Love You 12 of 15 Make an I love you sign with your fingers. Bed 13 of 15 Hands together like you are going to sleep, this is the sign for "bed". Milk 14 of 15 Pretend you are milking a cow with 1 hand - "milk". Water 15 of 15 3 fingers making a "w" - tap your mouth. This is the sign for water.

## Chapter 2 : SIGN with your BABY Complete Learning Kit - DVD Version

*Baby Sign Language lets babies, as young as six months old, communicate their needs so they don't need to cry. Your baby will learn how to tell you: When he is hungry, wants more, or is all done.*

Overview[ edit ] Baby sign involves enhanced gestures and altered signs that infants are taught in conjunction with spoken words with the intention of creating richer parent-child communication. Baby sign is used by hearing parents with hearing children to improve communication. Symbolic gestures are a form of communication that children adopt before they develop the ability to produce spoken language. Infants learn how to use their body language , eye gaze , and hand gestures as a way to attract attention and communicate. Once children gain some language production, they will couple language with gesture to further communicate. Pros and cons[ edit ] Suggested benefits[ edit ] Baby sign promotes communication before a child is able to verbally communicate with others. It is not, however designed to replace language. They will not however, during infancy, babble without making a gesture. Baby sign may assist in improving these significant developmental functions. This richer communication was found to lead to a more positive interaction with their child which overall benefits the establishment of an earlier parent-child bond. Doherty-Sneddon also states a key issue is ensuring that sufficient and appropriately designed research is available to back the claims made in relation to baby signing. This suggestion for further research implies that it may not be the baby signs themselves that facilitate language development but rather the underlying benefit being active, joint attention that is stimulated by baby sign. More specifically language development is improved by advancing comprehension, promoting literacy and successfully allowing the infant to express their needs so the parent becomes more responsive and observant of their baby. This may be a result of infants lacking enough attention to take in these two types of information and process it at the same time. Baby sign programs encourage parents to improve their communication skills between themselves and their infants before they have developed speech. They also found that children who participated in baby sign had similar language development to children who did not learn baby sign. It is suggested that participating in baby sign may be an unnecessary effort with infants when being motivated by the hopes of advanced language learning for the child. However, it was found that mothers who used baby sign with their infants encouraged increased independence with them and supported a higher level of independence for their child. This interaction has been claimed to increase joint attention between parent and child, but has yet to be studied enough in research literature. Teaching baby sign outside of research settings does not allow for the parent to raise questions or concerns to trained individuals. When it comes to infants who have not yet acquired language abilities, signs are an easy and readily accessible form of communication. Gesturing gradually increases as infants connect pointing to word meaning, making a gesture-plus-word combination that will evolve into a two word combination. Results looked to see if the gestures that children use are related to the word they say while doing the gesture. Iverson and Goldin-Meadow found that infants gesture for items that they did not have the ability to express with words. When words were produced by the child, they typically were ones that the child had already been gesturing for. This shows that gesture is directly linked to the words that children will produce. This form of gesture aids in communication through the use of hand movements that represent an item or feeling. Once they make the connection infants will imitate actions that are produced by the caregiver. Consistency from the caregiver is crucial during the teaching and feedback stage in order for infants to learn from repetition. If the association changes then the child will have a harder time understanding how the symbolic gesture links to the item. This observation allows infants to learn symbols by borrowing the actions from the observed routine. Infants will learn to associate a word with the general motion that they carry out while using an object, such as throwing a ball. After this association children begin to make connections with the word and motion alone, in this case a throwing gesture. Infants now can make the throwing gesture to alert caregivers that they wish to throw a ball, thus increasing their non-verbal communication. Representative abilities such as these are further used by infants to demonstrate emotional feelings as they associate a motion or sign with a feeling. By consciously demonstrating the sign to the infant, the caregiver and infant are

sustaining joint attention which increases communication. When caregivers aid infants in creating the sign with their hands, they are further increasing encouragement, repetition, and communication. Infants as young as 9 months old and their teachers began to learn to use some signs from American Sign Language to communicate with each other effectively. The program found that children would use the signs they learned in the classroom at home. Researchers examined whether results claimed baby sign encouraged developmental, social, cognitive, and language skills while achieving a greater bond between parent and child. However, there is also no evidence from these articles that baby sign is in any way harmful to infants. Individuals looking for information regarding the pros and cons of using baby sign should ensure they are accessing sites backed by research and not opinion. Commercial products available to parents participating in baby sign workshops or implementing it at home, are found to be comparable to the quality of products used in research studies. *How to Talk with Your Baby Before Your Baby Can Talk* which was published in 1986, that greatly influenced the baby sign movement, by providing guidance, suggestions, and information to caregivers. *Essential Baby Sign Language*, a relatively short book written by Teresa Simpson, explains why a caregiver may want to sign with their child, how to start signing, and the best strategies to achieve success. Simpson explains 75 common signs in this book but has other books that are for the more advanced signer, and provide numerous different signs. *Baby Sign Language for Hearing Babies*, is one book that explains the type of workshops that Warburton runs with her students, and includes a dictionary of baby signs. Briant has published different baby sign books as well as a website. One of her books, *Baby Sign Language Basics: Early Communication for Hearing Babies and Toddlers*, explains how to start signing, when is a good time to begin, how to optimize the experience, and what limits should be set. As in most products aimed at aiding caregivers, there are pictures to illustrate how specific signs look when done according to the guidelines in the book.

**Chapter 3 : How To Use Sign Language With Your Baby, Infant, or Toddler - Babies and Signing Signs**

*It is not to show to your child, but rather to teach you as a parent or caretaker how to most effectively go about teaching and communicating via sign language with your hearing (or hearing impaired) baby of age 6 months or above.*

We would place the flash cards on the floor, we would say a word, sign the word and teach our little ones to find the proper card. We also incorporated a lot of sing and sign to keep their attention. Regardless of your approach the 2nd year is always challenging. I encourage you to take a natural approach and deal with his learning process in a way that it does not stress him out. Monica January 4th, Hi, I had started signing with my baby at 3 months. But ended up stopping because I returned to work. Long story short I ended up leaving my job. Is it possible to teach her sign now even after such a long stop period? Do you have a recommendation or should we try and come up with a sign of our own? She is now 6 months old and when we sign, sometimes she shows disinterest and just turns away or gets preoccupied with something else. Is she still going to learn despite her preoccupation? Nicole Craven August 10th, I signed with my son and it was so helpful. He started signing milk at about months and really exploded at about months. I have been signing with my daughter and she refuses to sign. She is 11 months and i have yet to get her to use a single sign been signing milk,mommy,daddy since birth. She understands when i sign to her, but she usually turn away and closes her eyes and then turns back and points at what i just signed. I repeat several times with the same response and eventually give in to what we are talking about mostly milk and food. Is there a something for teaching sign language to a stubborn child? We have started to develop a lot of frustration in our communicating did not have this with my son because all she does is whine when she wants something. Her little Clara responded well to visual feedback and musical context. PsalmBrea I have a nine month old and want to start signing. Should I say the word verbally along with the sign. Or just use the hand gesture? Yadi April 11th, My son just turned 6 months old a few days ago. I am wanting to know should I use the sign for Eat to whatever he puts in his mouth as in bottle breast milk, solids, and nursing. Or should I separate the sign milk for nurse and eat for solids? As our babies begin to show interest in specific foods we add signs such as cookie, milk, orange etc. Jenna April 6th, I have a 2. He has been in speech therapy for over a year with no progress. There is a little boy I know who also has autism and has demonstrated an ability to understand signs but is unable to sign at all. Sofia February 7th, I was learning from this site but i got a question. Brenda Boeckel November 29th, Hello. I started teaching my nonverbal 2 yr. He loves your show. He watches the show while trying to imitate the signs. My question is, how do I get him to sign his name without having to finger spell it. She is very vocal but has difficulty forming her basic sounds. Is there something I can practice with her to help her advance in her signs and speech? The fact that she is making sounds when interacting is a sign that she is on the right path. Continue to encourage her and help her by modeling the signs while holding her little hands. Our book has several advanced methods you can use to accelerate learning progress. Your baby will most likely have an explosion of signs and words between 9 to 14 months. He should have been saying mama and dada by now and I am starting to get worried. I want my son to avoid that and a friend of mine whose father and two sisters are deaf recommended that I teach my son sign language. My concern is it too late to teach my son sign language at this late in stage? Often speech pathologists teach signing to children with speech delays as a way to prime the pump and start activating communication pathways in the brain. Allie March 16th, Hi! I have 2 children, and my youngest was born deaf. Our speech therapist suggested we begin ASL, and I found your website. My youngest is 18 mo. You may want to combine our kit with an ASL dictionary to help your son transition. Dianne Can I start this with my 19 month old? Chances are your little one is already verbal but knowing the signs will help with motor skills and creating associations between gesturing and concepts. However she gets very frustrated really weasy when I comes to eating or not getting what she wants most of the time it is because we are unsure of her needs she will cry just because. We want to start doing baby sign language to help her frustration with communicating but not sure when to start or even where to begin anything you could recommend would be great! As she is our first this is all new to us to as well. We have already started transitioning to a sippy cup with formula in it so anything would help thanks ADMIN â€” Hi

Brittany, When you are dealing with a gifted child who is reaching her milestones way earlier than her peers you have to play it by ear. I know a number of moms and dads who introduced sign language at birth, were consistent and saw their first signs at 20 to 24 weeks. Go ahead and get her started with basic signs to help her express her needs. Use contextual teaching and support it with flashcards. If your baby is showing a proclivity toward music get her The Baby Signing Time collection. At her present age you are likely to see quick progress and should have a signer in your hands within a month or two. Emily January 7th, Hi, my name is Emily and my son was born deaf. We are trying to decide if we should do sign language or Cued speech. He just recently got a cochlear implant but he has inner ear malformations so we are not sure how well he will benefit from them yet. ADMIN Hi Emily, I have seen various instances where cued speech is combined with sign language to further equip the child to communicate particularly during early stages. It is best that you talk to his speech therapist and create a personalized approach that best fits his specific needs. Alexis Scott January 4th, My son is 21 months old. He says words like mom, dad, nana grandma , papa grandpa , and not really anything else. A child can learn sign language at any stage in life and obtain the benefits of having an alternate tool to communicate their needs and ideas. Many speech therapists will teach signing as a bridge to speaking with children that are having trouble talking and incorporate a lot of signing into their curriculum. I would also encourage you to see a speech therapist sooner rather than later if you have concerns. Speech issues if your son has one , are much easier to correct when they are identified early. Elisa December 20th, Hi! My son is 8 months old and I want to start teaching him BSL. At home we speak two languages Spanish and English. However, we tried to speak only spanish to him. One of the things the speech therapist, at that time, said to my sister was to only speak one language at home. What would you recommend? Thank you so much! Emily My son is 9 months old. Is it too late to start signing with him? If I do start signing with him, will it take him a while to understand it? You will see really quick progress specially if you focus on meaningful signs that meet his basic needs. At nine months old we like to use the sturdy flashcards to allow baby to have something to hold and interact with. Margaret Maquinna I have a 3 year old grandson who was born deaf. Lo October 19th, Hey my daughter will be 2 in December and she says some words but not many. Her doctor thinks that she might have a mild case of autism. Is there anything that I can do to help her communicate better? If there is potential for a learning disorder such as autism, I would get a referral to a specialist and see if she would benefit from working with a speech therapist. Communication issues are much easier to fix when caught early. Annie September 2nd, I have a 2 year old Daughter who started talking at 3 months old and has been fluently talking since she was 1 year. She used to use a little bit of sign language but she stopped when she turned 1. How can I start reacquainting her with the use of ASL? This is particularly useful with a highly verbal child. Carrie May 5th, I just came a across ur website and I love it. We use flashcards, songs, and small toys on both sides as we practice together. Her mother is very supportive and signing adds dimension to our relationship. Mia April 4th, Hi, my daughter is 14 months old.

### Chapter 4 : Parent Child Baby Sign Language Class | Parenting Success Network

*Garcia's "Sign With Your Baby" program is based on American Sign Language, while the "Baby Signs" program, created by psychologists Linda Acredolo and Susan Goodwyn, uses a set of simple signs designed for babies.*

Katie is here to share all about signing with your baby or toddler, plus tips for how to get started. I used baby signs with my son when he was a baby and even now as a toddler, and it has helped us tremendously in all the areas that Katie addresses in her post. I am so thrilled to be here on Mama OT! My name is Katie, and I am a pediatric speech-language pathologist and mama to two, with one on the way. I blog over at playing with words sharing information about speech and language development and tips for parents and professionals. I also happen to be a big advocate of signing to hearing babies and toddlers, or what you might know as Baby Sign. I signed to both of my children, and for my son it ended up being a Godsend, as he ironically ended up being a late talker. Today, I am going to share with you all 5 Benefits of Signing with Your Baby or Toddler and leave you with some tips on how to get started. Receptive language skills what they can understand develop earlier than expressive language skills what they can say. In fact, the motor skills and auditory perceptual skills needed to articulate speech are simply not developed enough to produce words until around months of age give or take and then they continue to develop for years. Earlier communication may decrease tantrum behavior As children develop, their receptive language skills what they understand develop at a much faster rate than their expressive speech and language skills what they can say. By giving your child the gift of sign language as an early communication tool, you may see a decrease in tantrum behavior as he will be able to communicate to you more effectively than with speech and gesture alone. You will find yourself talking a lot about the items you are teaching. Do you see the DOG? Look, DOG as you sign again. Teaching sign language can be a wonderful bonding experience Yes, teaching your infant or toddler sign language can really be a fantastic bonding experience. When you teach your child sign, you must get down at their level and look at them. You must interact with your child, label, talk, describe, make eye contact and demonstrate the sign. You also will often show your child how to make the sign hand-over-hand. All of these interactions can help increase the bond you have with your child. There is research to support that hearing children who are taught sign language from an early age have better reading and spelling skills and yes, even higher IQ scores down the road. In addition, using and understanding sign language requires a child to utilize his visual and joint attention skills, both of which are very important skills in both learning and social interactions. I have a whole series of posts in my blog all about signing with little ones! Just click on the link to head over for some great tips!

**Chapter 5 : Teaching Your Baby Sign Language Can Benefit Both of You**

*Find great deals on eBay for sign with your baby. Shop with confidence.*

It is intended to help very young children to express their needs and wishes earlier than they could otherwise. Baby signing experts believe that frustration and tantrums can be avoided by closing the gap between desire to communicate and the ability to do so. In addition to ASL, there is an established system of signing called makaton. Makaton is a communication aid, not a language, whereas ASL is a language with its own grammar and is used fluently by deaf people. But using signs is likely to be beneficial no matter what method you choose. Infants who learn baby sign language also are thought to gain psychological benefits, such as improved confidence and self-esteem. Feelings of anger due to an inability to communicate may not occur as often. Having the ability to sign could be a lifesaver when a child is too distraught to speak clearly. Parents say that signing is rewarding and aids bonding because of the need to make more eye-to-eye and tactile contact. It has been suggested that learning sign language can delay speech, but this is refuted by experts who claim that in fact, it aids speech development. Most baby signers speak earlier than babies who do not learn sign language. It also could save much time and frustration. Finally, teaching an infant baby sign language can be a fun process in itself. Infants enjoy learning and games, eagerly soaking up more and more signs. Tips on teaching baby sign language Begin demonstrating when the infant is between six and eight months old, when they can hold your gaze for a couple of seconds. Start with three to five signs, using eye contact and saying the word out loud. Suggest that other caregivers join in. Notice when the infant begins to mimic the signs, usually after about two months, and add additional words when you begin to make progress. The child may be resistant at first, or never show an interest in signing. Children are all different and it does not by any means indicate a problem. Occasionally the infant may understand and respond to the signs without ever trying to copy them. There are many widely-available books and websites that give more information and demonstrate the signs, as well as local baby signing groups in many areas.

### Chapter 6 : Teach Baby Sign Language - Learn How to Sign with your Baby

*It shows the first signs and skills needed to communicate with children between 0 and 3 years old. Using NZSL with your baby or toddler can increase your child's ability to communicate their needs, desires, and feelings.*

These steps are then reinforced through certain tested methods using infant signing in everyday activities. It is easy to initially be intimidated by the thought of teaching Baby Sign Language. This is because you are looking at what you want as the end result – the ability to have a conversation with your infant. But taking the process step by step means teaching word by word. Looking at it this way makes it much simpler to approach. Teaching baby sign language begins with the introduction of a few simple words. Choose a really easy word that the baby will most likely learn the quickest. This means choosing a word that represents something familiar to your baby. The first sign word should probably be for something concrete. When you begin teaching baby sign, remember to always make sure you have eye contact with your infant. The only way your baby will make the connection between the object and the sign is if he or she does not miss the hand gesture. You will want to gesture and then point to, or use, the object. There are many ways to use sign language with your baby. When your infant learns a sign for a favorite object that becomes a springboard for adding other descriptive words. This teaches your infant about different ways to use the word. This is early literacy! Teaching baby sign sometimes requires making careful decisions about what words to introduce. Fun activities make teaching and learning Baby Sign Language entertaining. Singing along with a record while signing a word in the music is effective, especially if the infant likes to listen to songs. You just want to make sure you sign and point to the desired object at the right time. Another method for teaching baby sign language is to reinforce gestures that have related activities. When you do this enough times your baby will soon make the connection. You can also use sign language with your baby while looking at books. Teaching baby sign with a book promotes early literacy. It is the perfect time to teach some Baby Sign Language. As you read the book, point to a picture and sign. Reinforcing the sign is the key to success. There are many methods you can use for teaching baby sign. Parents can take almost any opportunity to teach Baby Sign Language. Take a walk around the neighborhood and find common items of interest to sign with baby. Or you can go to a park or zoo and sign the words for the animals. Animals fascinate children - including infants.

### Chapter 7 : About Your Privacy on this Site

*When first starting out with baby sign language, you will want to do just a few signs that you repeat over and over. Once your baby learns these first few signs you can expand your repertoire.*

### Chapter 8 : Baby sign language - Wikipedia

*The best way to encourage your baby to learn any language - Sign Language or the language(s) you speak at home- is to interact directly with your infant or toddler," Ayelet says. She recommends incorporating signs into your child's daily routines (dressing, bathing, meal times, etc.) and to incorporate lots of music with gestures into your.*

### Chapter 9 : Sign With Your Baby | Open Michigan

*Baby sign language is the use of manual signing allowing infants and toddlers to communicate emotions, desires, and objects prior to spoken language development. With guidance and encouragement signing develops from a natural stage in infants development known as gesture.*