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## Using American Sign Language (ASL) in the Classroom

This 3-course series focuses on using vocabulary from American Sign Language to promote language, communication, and literacy development in early childhood education..

## ASL is Not Just for Pre-verbal Children

This series is relevant for educators teaching in early childhood education, infants - 2nd grade.
This 3-course series learning objectives include:

- Explain how ASL supports brain development in early childhood.
- Discuss the benefits of ASL in early childhood education settings.
- Demonstrate how to use vocabulary from ASL in early childhood education settings.
- Implement ASL vocabulary into an early childhood literacy program.

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All clipart is from Microsoft Office; therefore this document is free.

## Directions

- Print using a color printer on standard $81 / 2 \mathrm{x}$ 11 paper and then laminate your copies.
- Cut each of the labels and post the label on the appropriate item in your classroom or home.
- You may also make an additional set of laminated copies and cut them up as puzzle pieces or create a matching game for your reading center.


## Tips and Tricks

Use the following labels in a variety of ways, including:

- Procedures chart
- Communication boards
- Daily routine board or schedule board (individual or class)
- Class books
- Individual books
- Calendar activities (sign and sing days of the week)
- Props for stories
- Sequencing activities
- Re-telling stories or procedures
- Visual cues
- Class posters
- Good Listening poster (Stop - Look - Listen)
- Songs or poems
- Pocket chart activities, such as stories or poems


## Finger Spelling

Many signs are made by using a hand that shapes a letter from the ASL alphabet. When reviewing the labels the directions will tell you which alphabet hand to use.

Colors



Use your index finger and tap your lips.


Red


Make a fist and squeeze around your mouth.


Use the $Y$ hand-shape and shake it.

Orange


Use your G hand-shape and shake it.


Green


Use your B hand-shape and shake it.


Blue


Use the $P$ hand-shape and shake it.


Use your P hand-shape and tap your lips.


Pink


An open 5 hand is placed on the chest and is then pulled straight out with the fingertips coming together.


Use the $B$ hand-shape and stroke the side of the face.


White



Use your index finger and trace across your eye brows.


Black


Use both hands and interlock the open fingers.


Grey


Use the fingers to wiggle in front of your chin.


Colors


Use the flat hand and move it up the body several times.


Happy


Use two flat hands and move it up the body several times.


Glad


Bend fingers and pull away from the faces, making an

Mad angry face at the same time.


The U hand-shape brushed against the nose as if tickling.


Funny


One U hand-shape moves from the nose to the top of the other $U$ handshape.


The thumb side of the $Y$ handshape faces the nose while the hand is twisted back and forth.


The thumbs and index fingers flick out by the eyes to represent the eyes opening wide when a person comes across something unexpectedly .


## Surprised



The thumb of the A hand-shape is moved up the chest to represent bringing forth ones feelings.


The middle fingers alternately move up the chest.

## Excited



The outspread fingers are move down in front of the face to show that the features of a face are drooping .


Use your fingers as if tears are rolling down the face.


Cry


The hands move in front of the body as if to protect it from something.


Scared


The A hand-shape circles the heart.


The hands are placed on the chest and are moved downward along with
 the shoulders drooping.


The two index fingers move to and from each other to represent Hurt the throbbing sensation.


One hand lifts the other A handshape up to represent the concept of helping.


Help


The letters I, L, and Y are made simultaneously to represent the first letters of the phrase I love you.


I Love You


The arms pull something in as if giving a hug.


Hug

Family


## Signing Tip

Many times in American Sign Language the same sign is used but represents something different. It depends upon the context of the conversation but also the gender.

When signing the family or people if the sign is done on the top half of the face it will represent a male. If the sign is done on the lower half of the face it will represent female.

Example-
The sign for cousin is the C hand-shape held up to the face. If the sign is done near the temple it will represent a male cousin but if the sign is made near the chin it will represent the female cousin.


The fingers of the five handshape is wiggled with the


Mom thumb by the side of the chin.


The thumb of the five handshape touches the forehead.


Dad


The thumb of the A handshape strokes the side of the chin.


Girl


The hand grasps the visor of a cap in the position that is commonly used to indicate the concept of male.


The sign for Father is moved out from the forward twice in small circular motions.


The sign for Mother is moved away from the chin twice in small circular motions.


Grandma


The sign for Boy is made while bringing the both $L$ handsshapes together at the wrists.


Brother


The sign for Girl is made while bringing both $L$ hand-shapes together at the wrists.


The A hand-shape circles next to the chin.


The U hand-shape is circles near the temple.


Uncle


The C hand-shape circles either near the chin or temple depending upon the gender.


Cousin


Link the two index fingers with each other back and forth.


Friend

## Our Favorite Animals




Snap your fingers and tap your leg as if calling a dog.


Use your fingers as if stoking a cats whiskers.


Cat


The thumb and forefinger mimic a bird's beak.


Bird


Point, bring back and point again in front of the nose using two fingers.


Lizard


Use a curved V hand-shape back and forth signifying a snake slithering in the grass.


Snake


Use a flat hand on its side to mimic a fish's tail.


Fish


The forefinger brushes across the nose to signify a mouse's twitching nose.



Finger spell Z, O, O.


Zoo


Use your hand from your nose down in front of your body to signify the trunk of an elephant.


Elephant


The cupped hand going up the neck signifies the long neck of the giraffe.


Giraffe


The four hand-shapes are pulled across the body to signify the strips on the zebra.


Two Y hand-shaped tap each other on the wrist mimicking the open and closing of the mouth.


Hippopotamus


Use both hands with open fingers as if an alligator was opening and closing his mouth.


Tickle under your arms like a monkey scratching itself.


Tap with your closed fists on your chest.


Monkey


Gorilla


The open bent fingers of both hands pulls across the face to
 signify the tiger's stripes.

## Tiger



Use the open hand and stroke your hair from front to back as


Lion
if it is the mane of a lion.


The hands cross the chest and mimic scratching.


Mimic the arms of kangaroo hopping.


Kangaroo


Both H hand-shapes to the top-side of the head signifying the horse's ears.


The $Y$ hand-shape to the topside of the head signifying the cow's horns.


The fingers tap the thumb to mimic the movement of the

## Duck

 duck's bill.

The thump and forefinger mimic the chicken's beak on the other open hand.


Chicken


The thumb of the 3 hand-shape touches the forehead and represents a rooster's comb.


Rooster


The fingers are spread and bent. The movement of the hands represent the concept of raining.


The fingers wiggle as the hand is moved down to represent snowflakes falling.


The hands flow back and forth as if indicating the movement of the wind.


The hands fan the head as if creating a cool breeze.


Cool


The 4 hand-shapes outline the stripes of a rainbow.


Rainbow


The index fingers rub against each other as the hands are held up pointing to the sky.


Stars


The hands outline the shape of clouds moving.

## Clouds



The hand is turned towards the head and the fingers spread out to represent the sun

## Sun

 shining down from the sky.

A modified C hand-shape taps the side of the forehead.


Moon


The shoulders are hunched forward and the hands shake Cold as if the signer is cold.


The open hand goes from the mouth and then suddenly pulled away to show that it is too hot to eat .


Hot


The hand is held in front of the mouth and then moved outward

warm while it opens up to mimic warm air that comes from the mouth.



Flower from one side of the nose to the other to represent smelling flowers.


The upright arm represents a tree.

In back of a C hand-shape the other hand goes from a open pointing down hand to opening all 5 fingers upward.


## Cactus




The thumbs lock and the fingers flutter to represent the shape and movement of a butterfly.


Butterfly


The wiggling forefinger on the open hand represents a worm crawling on the ground.


The 3 hand-shape with the thumb touching the nose and


Bug the other two fingers wiggling.

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