

"Sign Language is a great way to communicate! My son loves the songs we sing in class and so do I! It's a wonderful, challenging way to learn and play." - Kai-Ming & Inaki



[www.mybabyfingers.com](http://www.mybabyfingers.com)

212-874-5978

## ***“Introduction to American Sign Language with your Baby”***

### ***Part One: Tips for Success***

*A Webbybites™ Video*

***Lora Heller, MS, MT-BC, LCAT***

Music Therapist, Teacher of the Deaf, & Mom

Founding Director of Baby Fingers LLC

Sign language is for hearing children? Yes! Sign language can be for any and all children, to jump-start language development, to provide motivation and foundation for speech, and to create an immediate bond between parent & child.



## **FAQs about “baby sign language”**

*Will signing with my baby delay her speech development?* Research clearly indicates that babies who sign tend to have a stronger command of verbal language and also begin speaking at an earlier age than babies who don't sign.

*Why are Baby Fingers classes based on American Sign Language?* American Sign Language is the language of the Deaf, a true language with its own grammar and syntax. It is not made up; ASL is now standardized throughout the United States and Canada. The advantage of using a standardized sign language as a foundation is that most people who share knowledge of that language will be able to identify and respond to the signs that your baby knows. With ASL, a foundation is provided for continued learning any language in later years.

*What about bi-lingual families?* ASL has been found to bridge the gap between two spoken languages and decrease frustration or confusion.

*What is the optimal age to introduce signs to our baby?* I suggest you begin learning signs right away, so it becomes part of your routine. Your baby will enjoy watching your signs at a very early age. Some babies may begin to sign as early as 4-6 months, others not until after a year, depending on consistency of use at home and personality. It's never too early or too late.

*How long will it take for our baby to start signing?* This also depends upon use at home. Integrating sign into your daily activity and consistently using signs on a daily basis is the key. Your child's age and motivation also play a role; some will start signing in a week, others in a few months.



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◉ **Tips for Success**

Gazes: *opportune times to introduce signs*

- ◉ **Pointed Gaze**— a noise or an action occurs; you and your child look in that direction and then at each other....Sign! (Ex: Daddy just walked into the room; book if it fell off the shelf)
- ◉ **Chance Mutual Gaze**— unexpected eye contact....introduce the sign for something meaningful and/or close by to the child.
- ◉ **Expressive Gaze**— your child looks at you to communicate a need.....Sign!

Slide #2

There are endless tips for success when signing with your baby or toddler. I'd like to focus on Gazes. These are perfect times to sign---

When you hear a noise or see an action, if you and your baby look in that direction and then at each other, sign! For example, Daddy just returned from work and the door opened. You look to the door, then at each other, and sign "Daddy." That is a Pointed Gaze.

When you and your baby have unexpected eye contact, sign! Introduce something meaningful, such as the sign for "I Love You," or "Mommy." That is a Chance Mutual Gaze.

When your child looks at you to express or request something, provide a sign. For example, if the bottle is empty and your baby looks at you, it's an opportunity to sign "More Milk?" Or your toddler bumps into the table and looks at you, it's the perfect time to sign "Hurt." That is an Expressive Gaze.

There are many on-line resources and home supplemental materials to help you get started, find a class or webinar, and practice throughout your day. For ideas and support, visit [www.mybabyfingers.com](http://www.mybabyfingers.com).

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## ***“Introduction to American Sign Language with your Baby”***

### ***Part Two: Manual Alphabet***

*A Webbybites™ Video*

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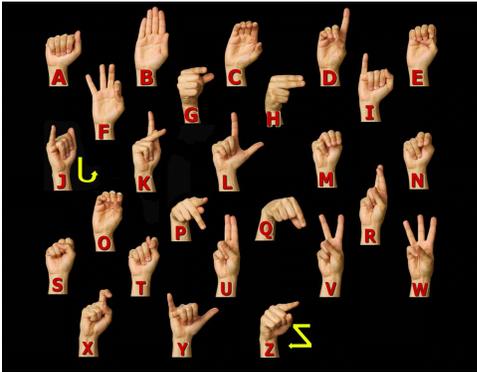


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MANUAL ALPHABET

Slide #1

What is the best way to get started signing? As parents, we sing a lot with our children. Add signs to your songs! You can start with the ABCs. Let's sing and sign together!

## AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE ABCs



Slide #2

With this alphabet, you can practice spelling your child's name as well.

Let's learn a sign for each letter with our initialized ABCs:

(**A** for Aunt; **B** for Blue; **C** for Class; **D** for Doctor; **E** for Elevator; **F** for Family; **G** for Green; **H** for Hurry; **I** for Idea; **J** for Juice; **K** for Kitchen; **L** for Library; **M** for Monday; **N** for Neice/Nephew; **O** for Orange; **P** for Party; **Q** for Queen; **R** for Restaurant; **S** for Saturday; **T** for Toilet; **U** for Uncle; **V** for Vegetable; **W** for Water; **X** for Xerox; **Y** for Yellow; **Z** for Zoo).



[WWW.MYBABYFINGERS.COM](http://WWW.MYBABYFINGERS.COM)

Go to our links page (found on Lora's Blog) to find our interactive ABCs. You will also find links to other websites to help you practice your finger spelling, ASL signs, and learn more about this signing gorilla. Our books and DVDs are found on our products page. My new Sign Language ABC book will be out next fall.

Slide #3

There are many on-line resources and home supplemental materials to help you get started, find a class or webinar, and practice throughout your day. For ideas and support, visit [www.mybabyfingers.com](http://www.mybabyfingers.com).



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## HIGHLIGHTS

~Sign language can be for any and all children, to jump-start language development, to provide motivation and foundation for speech, and to create an immediate bond between parent & child.

~Research clearly indicates that babies who sign tend to have a stronger command of verbal language and also begin speaking at an earlier age than babies who don't sign.

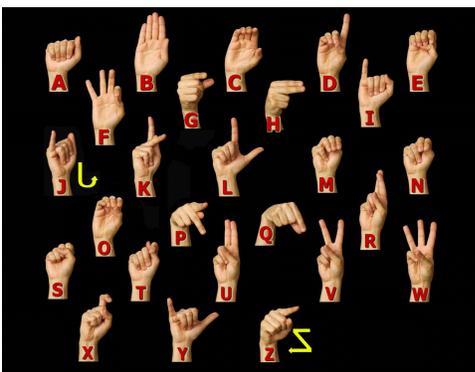
~ASL has been found to bridge the gap between two spoken languages and decrease frustration or confusion for children in bilingual families.

~Your baby will enjoy watching your signs at a very early age. Some babies may begin to sign as early as 4-6 months, others not until after a year, depending on consistency of use at home and personality. It's never too early or too late.

~Remember to SING and SIGN! When your baby looks at you to acknowledge an action, to express something, or just out of the blue, sign!!

~Visit [www.mybabyfingers.com](http://www.mybabyfingers.com) for classes, resources, and materials.

### AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE ABCs



Practice your ABCs here and on our interactive ABC link on our website (via Lora's blog). You can learn to spell your child's name this way too. Learn about the link between ASL and literacy!