

# Top 12 Reasons to Sign with All Babies

## 12 Reasons to Sign with All Babies

Sign to Speak—Babies Can Talk helps parents, teachers and caregivers to understand these 12 terrific reasons to sign with a baby. Signing with American Sign Language, ASL:

- 1. Provides for early communication.** Babies have the ability to use their hands to communicate wants, needs and thoughts many months before they can say words.
- 2. Reduces communication frustrations.** Parents around the country have been reporting for years that signing is a usable communication tool that enables babies to clearly express themselves helping to ease the crying and screaming communication frustrations.
- 3. Stimulates brain development.** When babies learn in conjunction with sign language their knowledge is obtained through the use of multiple senses. This learning supports and expands brain development by helping to build millions of synapses and dendrites.
- 4. Increase vocabulary.** Hearing babies who learn to sign have been shown to have up to twice the usable vocabulary, both signed and spoken, than their non-signing counterpart.
- 5. Improves memory and recall.** When signs are combined with spoken language the concepts and meanings of words are stored in a variety of places in the brain. This allows for much better memorization, recollection and use of words.
- 6. Is a wonderful bonding activity.** Signing provides parents with meaningful and focused activities. Whether parents are signing for communication or using it as part of playful activities like songs and story time, they and their baby are engaged and bonding.
- 7. Helps to build fine and gross motor skills.** The physical nature of signing, its use of hands, arms and body, helps to develop fine and gross motor skills and improves hand-eye coordination.

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- 8. Supports scaffolding.** Each skills, word, concept, or idea a baby learns, helps them to expand their learning to higher and higher levels. Signing enhances memorization, expands, vocabulary and provides babies with skills and knowledge that helps them to learn more about the world around them.
- 9. Uses a variety of Multiple Intelligences.** Children who use sign language for communication and fun are engaged in a wonderfully rich way to learn. Signing has children using a variety of different intelligences all at the same time (visual, physical, oral and more).
- 10. Enhances confidence and self-esteem.** Babies are physically capable of signing effectively allowing them to express themselves, learn about their world and meaningfully connect with adults and other siblings.
- 11. Encourages an enthusiasm for learning.** Babies find signing to be an interesting and enjoyable activity that engages them, allows them to express themselves, and encourages them to enthusiastically explore and learn about their world. Successful communication encourages babies to pursue language and learning.
- 12. Is one of the most common languages used in the United States.** It has its own vocabulary, structure and alphabet and unlike made up gestures, is recognized by millions of people nationally.

# The Manual Alphabet



Aa



Bb



Cc



Dd



Ee



Ff



Gg



Hh



Ii



Jj



Kk



Ll



Mm



Nn



Oo



Pp



Qq



Rr



Ss



Tt



Uu



Vv



Ww



Xx



Yy



Zz