

# **SIGNING WITH CHILDREN**

## **How do you use signs?**

- ✓ Sign slowly
- ✓ Only sign key words
- ✓ Speak naturally with signs
- ✓ Use signs correctly
- ✓ Ensure that adults and children in contact with signer can also use and understand signs
- ✓ Teach signs formally (only a few at a time)
- ✓ Use signing informally all the time
- ✓ Do not overload child with too many signs
- ✓ Only teach signs that are useful to the child you are working with

Signing can be used with objects, photos or symbols, as appropriate. Signs can be gradually phased out if a child develops clear speech. Some people will always need signs. Even learning a few key signs such as 'drink' and 'toilet' can enhance some children's lives enormously. If you are unsure about which signs to introduce, ask your speech and language therapist.

# **SIGNING WITH CHILDREN**

## **Why do signs help?**

- ✓ They are usually easy to recognise, eg drink, sleep
- ✓ Signs can be prolonged for emphasis
- ✓ Key words are signed helping the listener to focus on the most important parts of the sentence
- ✓ Visual information is easier to remember and understand.
- ✓ Signs can help the child realise the difference between 2 similar words, eg. house/mouse
- ✓ Signs can help all children to be more easily understood
- ✓ Gains attention
- ✓ Improves eye contact
- ✓ Sociability increases
- ✓ Vocalisation increases
- ✓ Expressive speech may develop.
- ✓ More readily understood
- ✓ Stimulates the same area of the brain as speech
- ✓ Helps early attempts to communicate to be successful
- ✓ Signing can help some children 'find' forgotten words
- ✓ Children with unclear speech can be understood and can prove that they can read

These outcomes have been shown to be far more common in children taught to sign than in those who have not.

**USEFUL SIGNS for preschool children**

Greetings	Feelings	Objects	Questions	Transport	Activities
<b>Hello</b> <b>Goodbye</b>	<b>Like</b> <b>Happy</b> <b>Sad</b> <b>Hurt</b>	<b>Bed</b> <b>TV</b> <b>Teddy</b> <b>Brick</b> <b>Book</b> <b>Spoon</b> <b>puzzle</b> <b>film</b> <b>iPad</b>	<b>What</b> <b>Who</b> <b>Where</b> <b>Which</b>	<b>car</b> <b>bus</b> <b>train</b> <b>bike</b>	<b>Play</b> <b>Cook</b> <b>Wash</b> <b>Sleep</b> <b>bath</b> <b>dirty</b> <b>music</b> <b>cut</b> <b>swim</b> <b>singing</b>
Places	Special Occasions	People	Other	Food	Actions
<b>School/Pre-school</b> <b>Home</b> <b>Shop</b> <b>Toilet</b> <b>Outside</b> <b>beach</b>	<b>birthday</b>	<b>I, me</b> <b>we</b> <b>Mum</b> <b>Dad</b> <b>Friend</b> <b>You</b> <b>baby</b> <b>brother</b> <b>sister</b> <b>grandma</b> <b>grandpa</b> <b>boy</b> <b>girl</b> <b>lady</b> <b>man</b> <b>teacher</b>	<b>no</b> <b>yes</b> <b>finish</b> <b>wait</b> <b>good</b> <b>quiet</b> <b>more</b> <b>cat</b> <b>dog</b>	<b>orange juice</b> <b>water</b> <b>milk</b> <b>dinner</b> <b>drink</b> <b>yoghurt</b> <b>sandwich</b> <b>apple</b> <b>hot</b> <b>banana</b> <b>biscuit</b> <b>crisps</b> <b>eat</b>	<b>speak</b> <b>look</b> <b>listen</b> <b>come</b> <b>go</b> <b>give</b> <b>help</b> <b>sit down</b> <b>stop</b>

Greetings



Hello



goodbye

feelings



Tap  
twice

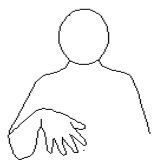
like



happy



sad

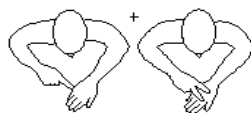


hurt

objects



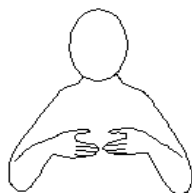
bed



TV



teddy



brick



book



spoon



Mime placing pieces together

puzzle



film



swipe twice  
wrist to  
finger tips

i pad

Questions



who



what

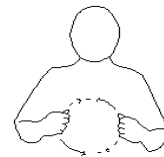


where

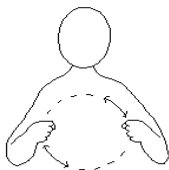


which

transport



car



bus

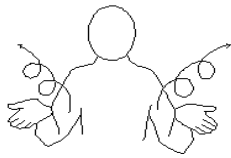


bicycle



train

## Activities



play



cook



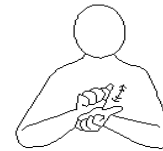
wash



sleep



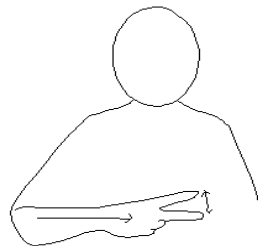
bath



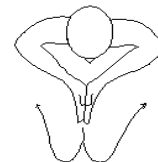
dirty



music



cut



swim



sing

Pre-Scholl V0514

**Virgin Care**

w: [www.virginicare.co.uk](http://www.virginicare.co.uk)

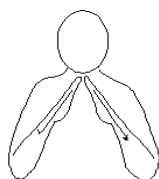
Registered office: Virgin Care Limited, 7-12 Lynton House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LT.  
Registered in England and Wales: Number 05466033

Date: 15/11/2017 v1.0

Places



school/preschool



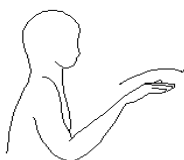
home



shop



toilet



outside



beach

special occasions



birthday



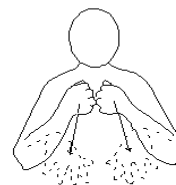
Other



no



yes



finish



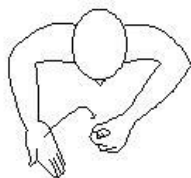
wait



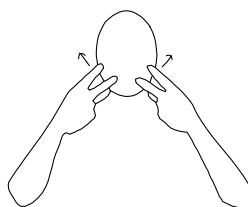
good



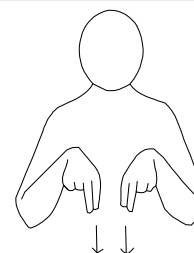
quiet



more



cat



dog

People



I/me



we



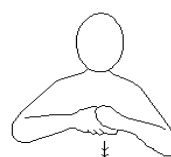
Tap  
twice

Mum

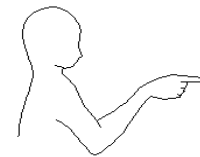


Tap  
twice

dad



friend



you



baby



brother



2 taps

sister

People



grandmother



grandfather



boy



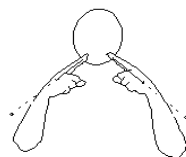
girl



lady



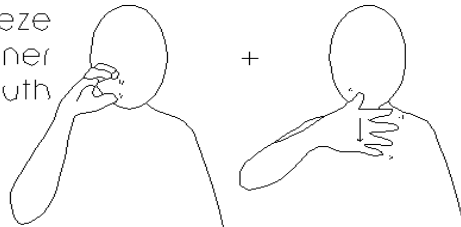
man



teacher

food

Squeeze  
orange at corner  
of mouth

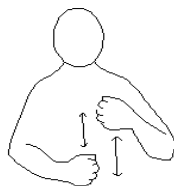


orange juice

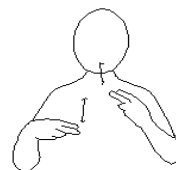
Tilt head  
slightly  
backwards



water



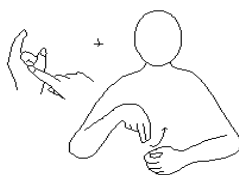
milk



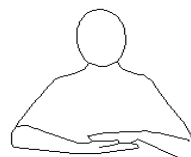
dinner



drink



yoghurt

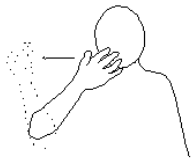


sandwich



apple

Food



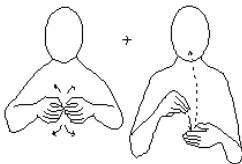
hot



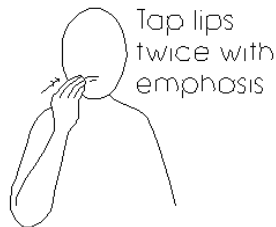
banana



biscuit

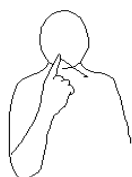


crisps



eat

## Actions



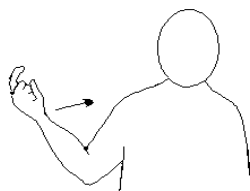
speak



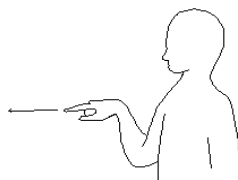
look



listen



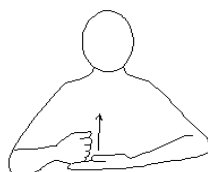
come



go



give



help



sit down



stop

## BRITISH TWO - HANDED FINGER SPELLING ALPHABET

		A	B
C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V
W	X	Y	Z

Pre-Scholl V0514

**Virgin Care**

w: [www.virgincare.co.uk](http://www.virgincare.co.uk)

Registered office: Virgin Care Limited, 7-12 Lynton House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LT.  
Registered in England and Wales: Number 05466033

Date: 15/11/2017 v1.0