



Signs and Gesture



What: Signs and gestures are when you give extra information to the words you say by using actions with your hands or body- like when you wave bye.

Why:

Using signs and gestures helps children to understand words

Children can use signs and gestures before they can use words- promoting the use of signs and gestures give children a way to communicate.

Lots of children make up their own gestures to indicate things they want, introducing signs supports their communication strengths.

How:

- Start by introducing **1 or 2 signs** at a time.
- Pick out **key words** that are interesting and useful to your child (you don't need to sign every word you say).

Words like "drink", "food", "more", "finished" or favourite toys and activities are often good ones to start with. You can find signs on the internet, tv programmes, or use natural gestures- imagine how you would ask someone across a noisy room if they wanted a drink.

- Use the word AND the sign together, use lots of **repetition**- find lots of opportunities to **practise** it everyday and **be consistent** in using the sign every time you use the word.
- Don't expect your child to use the sign- understanding comes before use.

Plan: (please circle/ fill in)

I/ we will use signs for: (eg for finished)

1.

2.

I/ we will use these signs: at least _____ times every day.