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## Ways for Families to Learn and Practice Sign Language

The Illinois Service Resource Center has a generous supply of sign language resources available for loan free of charge. Some of the helpful items are instructional videos, sign language curriculums, flashcards, games, dictionaries, children's stories in book and video formats, Signing Times, etc. There are some materials – books, dictionaries, videos, etc available in Spanish as well. The materials will be mailed directly to you upon request, with postage to return the materials at the conclusion of your loan period. To view the searchable library catalog visit [www.isrc.us/library](http://www.isrc.us/library). For assistance or recommendations from our librarian please call 847.559.8195 and ask for Morgan.

### Words and phrases:

- Attend Deaf events, picnics, etc. The best way to learn a language is to expose yourself to it naturally and use it often. (WSAD, IDLA, etc.)
- Sign to yourself in the mirror
- Get or make flashcards
- Sign words that you know when you hear them on the TV while watching. You can do the same thing with songs/words you hear on the radio.
- Mirror me – two people sit facing each other, one person signs a word, the other tries to copy it, then the next person signs and the first person copies. Then say what each other's words were.
- Silent dinner, lunch, snack – everyone at the table only uses gestures to communicate, no talking
- Quiz each other (like you are studying with a friend for a test) on words you know. Pick a topic that words relate to or not to make it easier or harder.

- Sign and say – one person signs, the other says the word...then switch jobs
- Say and Sign – one person says a word, the other person signs it back to them...then switch jobs
- Take a walk and practice signing all the words you know when you see them in real life
- Word Search – someone points to objects in the house, you sign it...then switch
- Scavenger Hunt – you sign a word, someone goes and points to the object or gets it. Take turns.
- Music – sign the words to songs on the radio or common children's songs/nursery rhymes.
- Using children's books: read them, ask questions about the story, spell the title, author, illustrator, etc.
- Look at picture books (books with little or no words): describe the pictures by asking and answering who, what, where, when, etc... Also make up your own story.
- Watch a movie or cartoon with no sounds – describe what you see or any words you know that can relate, make up your own story.
- Family and Board games to help with sign language practice:
  - Guess Who
  - Uno
  - Go Fish
  - Battleship
  - Candyland
  - Chutes and Ladders
  - Hi-Ho Cherry-O
  - Operation
  - Twister
  - Bingo

#### Fingerspelling:

- Words on street signs
- Product labels
- Names of objects around the house
- Name of objects at work or in public
- People's names
- Colors, shapes, etc – red, yellow, circle, etc.
- Foods – specifics like “instant brown rice” or “grilled turkey burger” “macaroni and cheese”
- Phone number
- Address
- People's birthdays
- Use web resources like [www.ASLPRO.com](http://www.ASLPRO.com) who have fingerspelling quizzes