

ASL at Home

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Curriculum summary

ASL at Home is an innovative, family-centered curriculum designed for families with young deaf children and the professionals who support them.

Grounded in research

- Deaf children from hearing families often receive poor access to language during the critical period for language acquisition (Gulati, 2018; Hall et al., 2017). This results in poor language and academic outcomes in this population.
- Deaf children who do have early access to visual language have age-typical outcomes (Davidson et al., 2013), even when parents are beginning signers (Caselli et al., 2021).
- Parent-facilitated language intervention improves language skills in hearing and oral deaf children (e.g., Ambrose et al., 2015; Brock & Bass-Ringdahl, 2021; Cruz et al., 2013).



Curriculum components

- Beginner-level ASL instruction
 - Routine-based vocabulary
 - Expressive sentence practice
 - Receptive sentence practice
 - Facilitative language techniques
 - Practice scenarios
 - "Fridge poster" visual reminders
 - Deaf Community Cultural Wealth discussions
- Guided self-reflection
 - "Deaf gain:" Lessons from the deaf community



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Why routine-based, family-centered teaching?

- When families learn through daily routines, they generalize skills to other aspects of life, make faster progress, and practice multiple times a day, every day (Jennings et al., 2012; McWilliam, 2016; Roberts et al., 2014; Sussman, n.d.)

Why this curriculum?

- Other curricula address families' other needs, such as speaking and listening, but do not teach ASL, which is fully accessible to deaf children, hard of hearing children, and children with other disabilities who experience difficulties with speech.
- Up to 95% of deaf & hard of hearing babies are born to hearing parents, but families face multiple barriers to learning the specific ASL skills they need to use with their child **right now** at home.

Curriculum applications

- Teach group classes or bring on home visits one-on-one with families
- Available electronically and in paperback

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