

SIGN LANGUAGE

Station 1

1 leader for every 6 - 8 students

15 minutes

Purpose:

- To acquaint the students with American Sign Language and inspire them to continue to learn it on their own

Materials:

- "Real Kids on Fairness" DVD (© Copyright 2007 by Silent Blessings, DVC and Deaf Missions)
- TV, DVD player or lap top computer from your school (must be provided by presenter or by school and requested in advance)

Setup:

- Set up the TV or computer so that students can see the DVD clip.

Procedure:

- Students and leaders sit at a table.
- An introductory discussion is held.
- Students are taught some simple ASL signs.
- A concluding discussion is held.

Hot Tip!

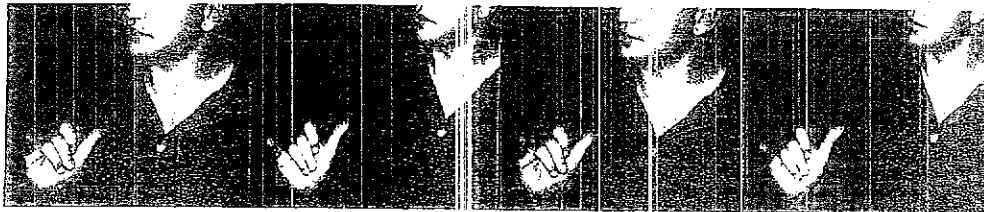
- Leaders need to be comfortable demonstrating the signs.

SIGN LANGUAGE

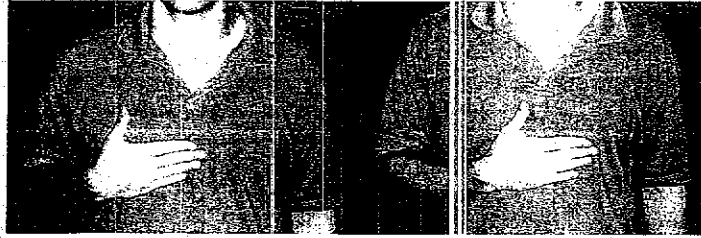
Sample Discussion

We said that communication is our way of exchanging thoughts, ideas, feelings, and information. There are forms of communication for which the ability to hear is not necessary.

- Do you remember we talked about non-verbal communication? Can you name ways to communicate without using your voice? (*showing emotions, gesturing, sign language, art, music, dance, lipreading, charades*) Everyone uses some of these at times.
- How do you use FACIAL EXPRESSION? Using facial expression, show me you are sad. Now show me you are angry. Facial expression conveys information about emotions for people who cannot hear, just as tone of voice does for people who hear.
(Using the word "what", ask a question.) WHAT?
(Using the word "what", show anger) WHAT!
- What is sign language?
Sign language is an unspoken language that uses gestures, hand shapes, fingerspelling, facial expression and movements to communicate words or ideas. Body language is an important component of sign language.
- Who can make a sign for good-bye? (*Wave*) Would you like to learn some more signs?
 - **I AGREE** (move the Y handshape between you and the person you are agreeing with). We will be using this sign throughout the UOD program to indicate when we agree with someone's statement or idea. Let's all practice.



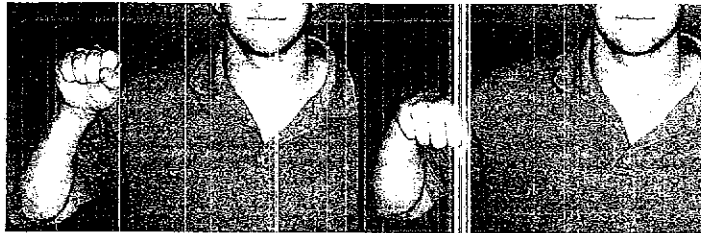
- **PLEASE** (rub hand in clockwise circle on upper chest)



- **THANK YOU** (move hand from lips toward recipient of thanks)



- **YES** (nod the S-shape up and down)



- **NO** (from 3-hand shape, bring fingers together while keeping them straight)



- **MAYBE** (open palms up, alternating hands, move up and down as if weighing a choice)



- **DEAF APPLAUSE** (rotate open hands overhead)



Why? Because deaf people may not hear or see your hands clapping but they can see your praise in raised hands.

- ASL isn't just substituting signs for English words. It is based upon ideas or concepts.

If someone can speak and understand spoken language why is it helpful for him or her to also know ASL? *(So that he or she can communicate with people who rely on ASL for communication, communicate across a large area where sound doesn't travel—beach, ball field.)*

American Sign Language DVD Clip

We are going to watch a 50 second DVD clip where the language being used is American Sign Language. In it, a Deaf adult interviews a few Deaf children about what the word "fairness" means to them.

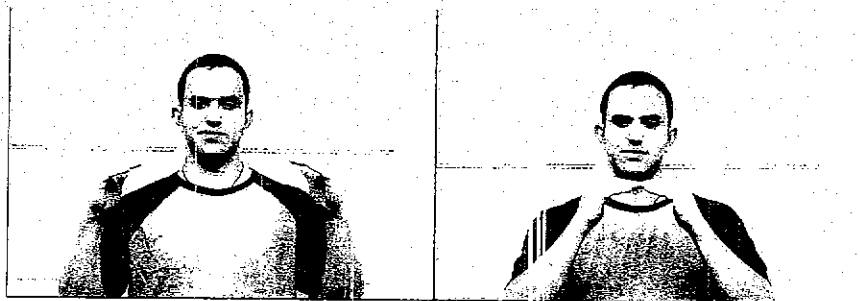
Show the DVD without sound.

- Were the people in the DVD able to understand each other?
- Were you able to understand what they were saying?
- How did you feel?

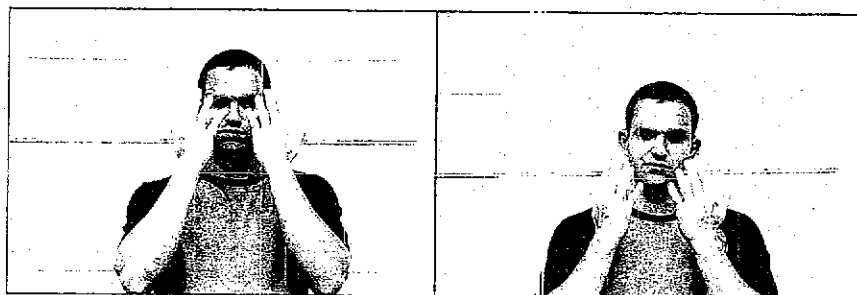
It can be frustrating when you don't understand the language being used.

Let's watch the DVD again, this time with the sound turned on. Before we watch it, let's learn a couple of signs that the children used during the interview.

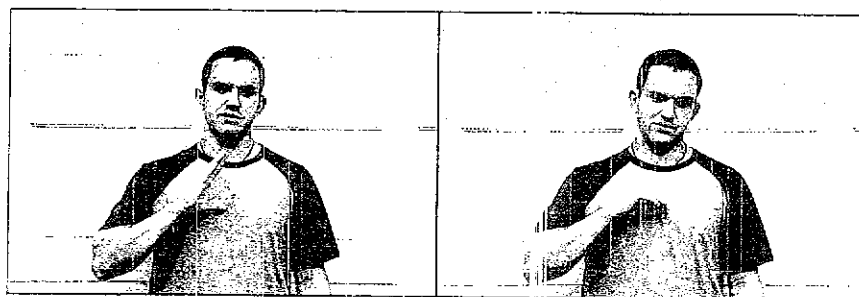
FAIR



SAD



FEEL BAD ABOUT



The children will be signing and the voices you will hear are interpreters. Notice that there is a different interpreter voicing what each signer is saying. Look for the girl with the pink shirt in the last frame and how she used one sign that meant the whole phrase: "feel bad about". (Demonstrate the sign for "feel bad about".) Many signs express an entire concept or idea, not just one word.

Show the DVD with sound.

You just saw once again that their communication with each other was very comfortable and natural. They felt no different than you feel talking to your friends and a lot of communication took place in a short period of time.

Interpreters

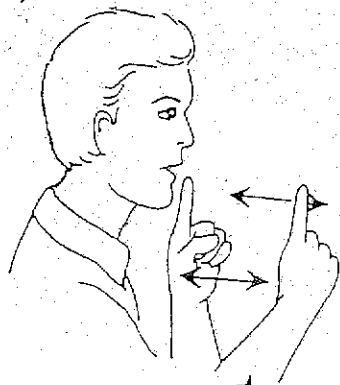
For people who communicate primarily by American Sign Language, interpreters are a link to the hearing world. For those who cannot hear, whether Deaf or hard of hearing, interpreters make the spoken word visible through ASL. Likewise, they give audible voice for the language of the Deaf person (ASL).

When you are communicating with a Deaf or hard of hearing person through an interpreter, you should always maintain eye contact with the Deaf or hard of hearing person and address your comments and questions to that person. It is as if the interpreter is invisible to you even though the signer may be looking at the interpreter in order to understand what you are saying.

Additional Information for Presenters

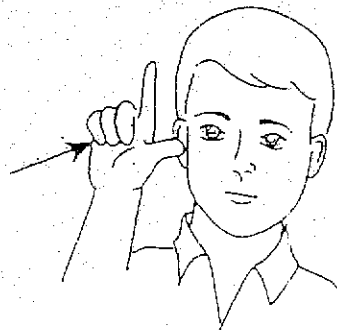
Interpreters are highly trained professionals who translate between two distinct languages. Interpreting is a very complex process requiring extensive training, practice and continuing education. Interpreters listen to spoken words, inflection, and intent, and render the meaning in a visual manner. They also watch a signing Deaf person and speak the words that represent the signer's meaning.

Interpreters must have an understanding of the dynamics of human interaction, an appreciation of social and cultural differences, including Deaf culture, the ability to concentrate and maintain one's attention, tact, judgment, stamina and often times, a good sense of humor.



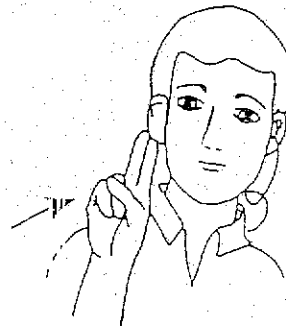
TALK ☉

Index fingers of both hands move alternately to and from lips



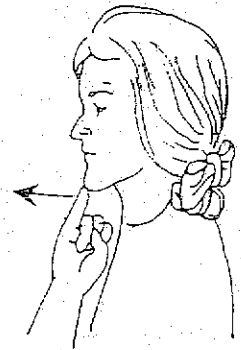
LISTEN

Thumb of palm-out L moves to ear (see SOUND)



HEAR

R-hand rises to ear (see SOUND)



IS

I on chin moves straight forward

216



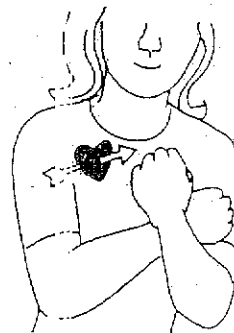
SPEAK

I 4 at chin moves forward & repeat



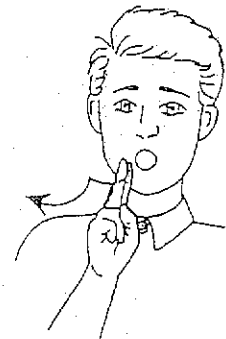
LIKE

Palm-in L on chest moves forward, closing thumb and finger



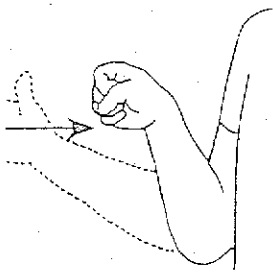
LOVE ☉

Palm-in R's cross on heart



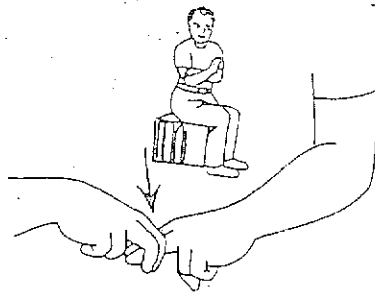
SING ☉

Palm-out U from corner of mouth arc forward and out, slightly to the side



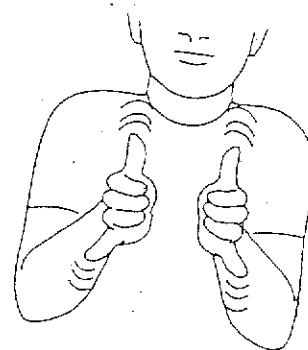
TAKE

draws back toward body S-hand



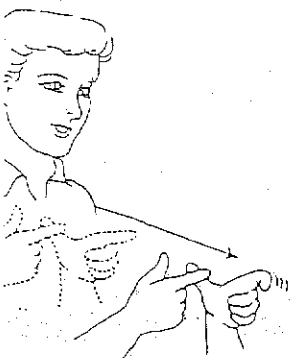
SIT ☉

Right index and middle fingers sit on left palm-down U-hand



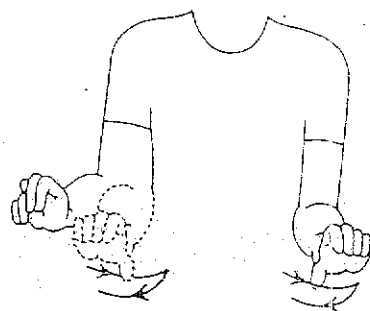
PLAY ☉ ✱

Y-hands face each other; shake



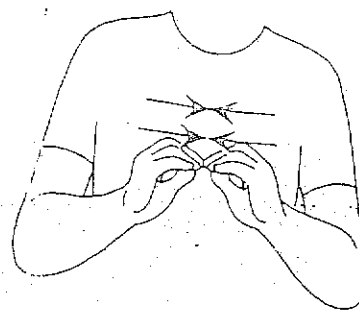
RUN

(Alt. 1)
Right L hooked around thumb of left L, both move & index wiggling



DONE

(Alt. 2)
Palm-down C-hands move left to right, add N-hand (do + p.o.)



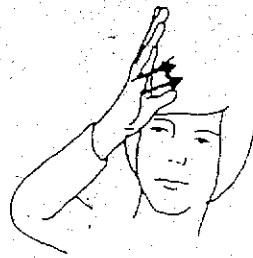
MORE

F1: -O's bounce lips together twice



mmy (mama)

shape RH palm left, tips up. Tap forehead with thumb twice.



daddy

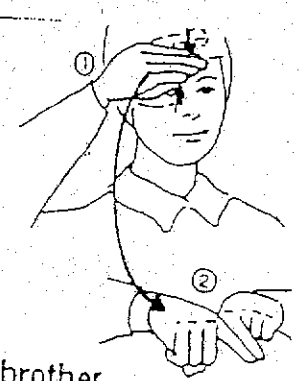
Five shape RH palm left, tips up. Tap forehead with thumb twice.



SISTER

(Alt. 1)

Extended-A hand touches jawline; drops to both index fingers together (see BROTHER)



brother

Snap flat O at forehead then tap index fingers of 1 shapes, palms down, together.



or

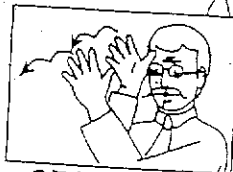


GRANDMOTHER

of palm-left 5 at chin, makes arcs diagonally to the right (sometimes done with two hands)

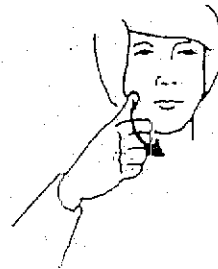


or



GRANDFATHER

Thumb of palm-left 5 at temple, makes two arcs diagonally to the right (sometimes done with two hands)



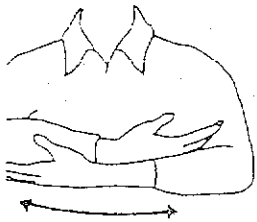
girl

A shape RH. Place thumb on right cheek and move down jaw line.



boy

Snap flat O at forehead twice indicating brim of cap.



Right arm in left arm at waist level as if rocking a baby.



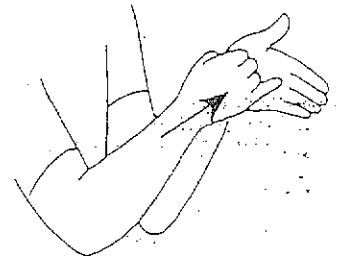
child

Lower RH, palm down, indicating height of child.



children

RH open B palm down. Bounce down two or three times to the right.



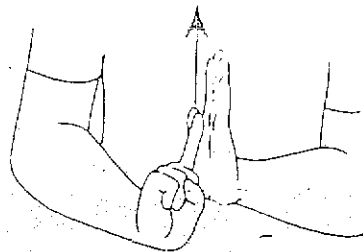
IT

Tip of I touches palm of left hand



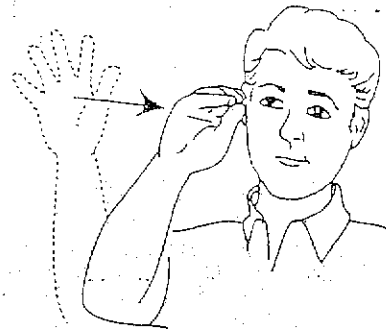
LITTLE

Hands face each other, jerk slightly toward each other; repeat (see SMALL)



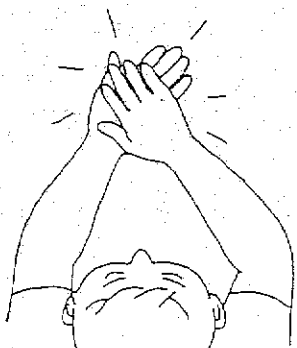
TALL

Right 1-index finger slides up vertical palm-right left hand



SOUND

Right palm-out 5 moves to ear, closing to flat-O hand



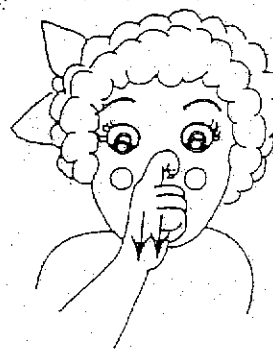
SCHOOL

Both hands clap
(see ACADEMIC)



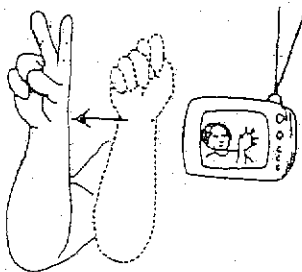
CLASS

Palm-out C-hands circle horizontally
out to palm-in



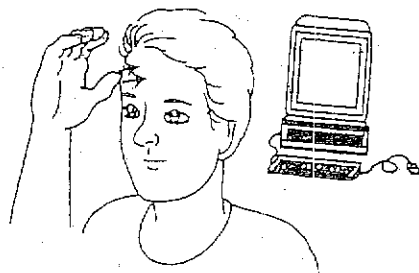
DOLL

Right X-finger brushes off tip of nose



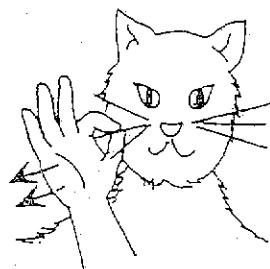
TELEVISION

Fingerspell T + V



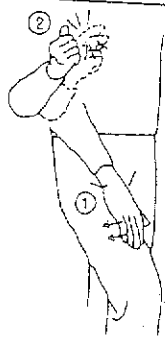
COMPUTER

Thumbtip of right C taps forehead
(can be compute + -er)



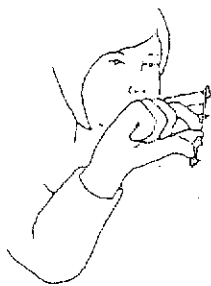
CAT

R-hand draws out whiskers; repeat



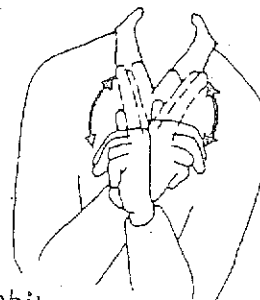
dog

Right thigh with RH twice then
p thumb and middle finger
toe. (Can also be signed using
either ① or ② alone.)



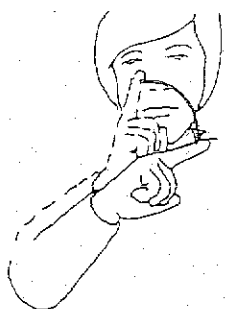
bird

G shape right hand, tips left. Place
on chin and snap index and thumb
together twice.

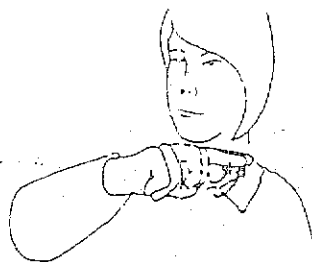


rabbit

H shape both hands. Cross at
wrists then wiggle index and mid-
dle fingers up and down.



mouse



frog

Place right S under chin and flick

