

Your Baby Can Talk!™

By
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With Video Host
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Your Baby Can Talk!™

Introduction

Welcome to Your Baby Can Talk!™ Thank you for purchasing our baby sign language system. We take a fun, straight forward approach to teaching your baby how to sign. Signing is physically and cognitively stimulating for both you your baby, and it provides a wonderful bonding activity for parent and child. Most importantly, it will allow you to communicate with your baby! You will avoid the frustration of not knowing what your baby wants or needs. Certainly, baby will be less frustrated when he or she is better able to communicate with you. In short, you will have less worries and the baby will throw fewer tantrums!

We take a simple approach to teaching you to sign with your baby. I think you will find this book, and the accompanying video, to

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Chapter One - It's a Good Sign

The facts are in. Signing with your baby is good for both parent and child. In this chapter, we discuss using American Sign Language in teaching your child to sign. Moreover, we review some of the research that has been done baby sign language; covering many of the positive effects signing can have on a child. After all, you need to be ready to rebut that skeptical relative who claims you are stunting Little Johnnie's verbal growth. As stated above, seeing you communicate with your child will silence even the most cynical skeptic. We provide you with all of the scientific and anecdotal evidence you need to reassure that skeptic. Notwithstanding the skeptic, you can be assured that signing with your baby is a wonderful thing.

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Chapter Two - Getting Started

Thank you again for purchasing the Your Baby Can Talk!™ sign language system. If you use this book, in conjunction with our video, you and your baby will be "talking" in no time, using the wonderful

signs of American Sign Language. I know you are dying to dive into your first words, but first, a few words on the teaching method and technique that will make you more effective and efficient in teaching your baby.

We recommend that you read (or at least skim) this entire book before you look at the Your Baby Can Talk!™ video. By reading the book, you get the “big picture” for all that is involved in communicating with your baby. You will receive many helpful hints to enhance your teaching ability. The video tracks the signs that are introduced in the book. Once you have an overview of the Your Baby Can Talk!™ system, use the video to refresh your recollection as to a particular sign and refine your signing technique

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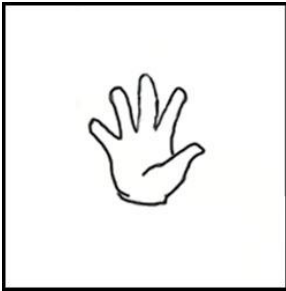
Chapter 3 - First Words

Time to start signing! But first, we need to warm up. In *Baby Signing for Dummies*, Jennifer Watson refers to this as baby “signing boot camp.” Let’s “stretch” before we start our full workout. We’ll do this by covering five basic hand shapes used in American Sign Language. You will use these shapes over and over in ASL signs.

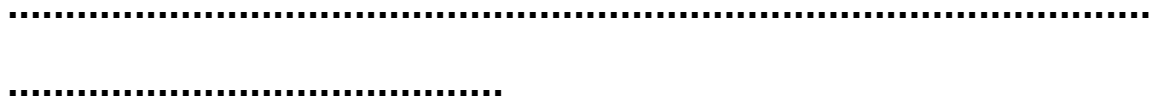
Some of these hand shapes incorporate the signs of the alphabet, which we cover in an index at the back of the book. Make these shapes with your dominant hand. That is, if you are right handed, use your right hand for these shapes. Generally speaking, you should always let your dominant hand do most of the work when signing.

Open-5

The open-5 hand shape is straight forward and easy. Hold up your hand, palm away from you, with all five fingers extended and spread apart. Easy as pie, right?



(figure 3-1)



Ready, Set, Sign!

Very good! Now that you are warmed up and ready to go, let's start with our first words. We start with some basic words that baby will use on a daily basis. In addition, we cover the "greetings and niceties" that every polite little baby needs to know. Finally, we cover

some important "needs based" words. These needs based words can be used to help keep baby safe and sound. Let's get started!

Mother

Obviously, baby needs to be able to call for Mommy and Daddy. We start with the ever popular "Mommy" (or "mama" where I come from). Seeing baby make this sign will make mommy so proud. Spread you fingers in the "open-5". While still holding your five fingers out, place your thumb on your chin.



(figure 3-6)

