

# Using Visual Cues

Using objects, pictures, gestures, hand signs and facial expression facilitates language learning as **visual information** about what you are saying is provided. For most children processing visual information is much easier than processing auditory information.

Using visual prompts when you speak will help your child learn words and concepts more quickly as the cognitive representations they form will contain more information.

## Using objects & pictures

- Use real objects when teaching your child new words
- Point to pictures in books and talk about what you see
- Use visual schedules to explain your child's daily routine
- Show your child real objects when offering choices
- Point to signs when you are out

## Using hand signs & gestures

- Always say the word at the same time that you use a hand sign
- Sign *only* the key words
- Use only one or two hand signs per sentence
- Use hand signs and gestures that come naturally to you
- Imitate the hand signs that your child uses
- Children will often use hand-signs to communicate before they are able to speak
- Research shows that using hand signs promotes speech development and will not delay your child's speech

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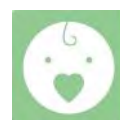
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# Using Visual Cues

## Key-word Signs

Using signs aids understanding by giving your child a visual cue. Remember to get your child's attention before you speak to them.

- Always say the word you are signing
- Only sign key-words
- Use signs all the time



**BALL (1)** - Cup both hands fingers spread, bounce finger tips as if surrounding ball shape.



**CAR** - Clench both fists in front of body - move formation as if holding an imaginary steering wheel. (Natural gesture)



**BABY** - Make a cradle of the arms and move them as though rocking a baby. (Natural gesture)



**FOOD** - Close dominant fingertips on to ball of thumb. Tap formation on chin, twice.

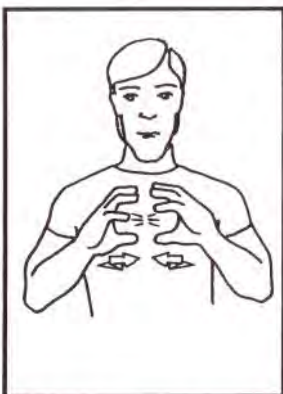
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