

# **GUIDEBOOK**

*for the*

## **Laurent Clerc American Sign Language Video Collection**



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***“An ASL Access Collection”***

[www.aslaccess.org](http://www.aslaccess.org)

***Donated to the Fairfax County Public Library  
in Honor of Laurent Clerc***

**Fairfax County, Virginia**

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***CRESTAR***

*September 1999*

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## **Basic ASL Lessons**

**The ASL Phrase Book video set** **V 419F**

Very practical signs and sentences for everyday conversations

**A Basic Course in ASL** **V 419H & V 419B**

This series gets right to the point with clear sign language instruction

**A Beginning Course in ASL (Bravo ASL!)** **V 419B**

16 lessons from a top-rated ASL series, with cultural notes and stories

**Coffee Break Sign Lessons (1-5, 6-10)** **V 419C**

Dr. Mike Tuccelli teaches signs with emphasis on conceptual accuracy

**Conversational Sign Language** **V 419C**

Ray Bearden teaches the manual alphabet and 90 sentences

**The Face of ASL** **V 419F**

Basic ASL grammar by Bienvenu and Colonomus

**From Mime to Sign** **V 419E**

Gil Eastman shows how mime can be a useful bridge to ASL skills

**Learning American Sign Language** **V 419H**

Fun, user-friendly book and video set by Humphries and Padden

**Mouth Morphemes** **V 419M**

Mouth-centered facial grammar in ASL, taught by Struxness

**On Fire With Classifiers** **V 419O**

Tuccelli shows how these signs are important to ASL grammar

**Say It With Sign!** **V 419B**

Lively video from popular series

**Sign ASL? Sure, You Can!** **V 419S**

Easy overview of ASL grammar by Tuccelli

**Sign Language Crash Course: I and II** **V 419M**

With this set, learners get ASL, PSE and cultural tips

**Signing Naturally Videotext** **V 419S**

Lentz, Mikos and Smith authored this text for use in ASL classes

## **ASL Lessons with a Focus on Infants and Toddlers**

### **ASL Basics for Hearing Parents of Deaf Children** **V 419A**

An excellent set, also useful for daycare workers

### **Sign Language Will Enhance Your Child's Intelligence** **V 419S**

The value of early sign use. Basic signs and information

### **Sign With Me** **V 649.152S**

Very clear communication techniques to use with infants/toddlers

### **Sign With Your Baby** **V 649.122G**

Teaches parents how to teach sign to their hearing babies

*see also:* **ASL Lessons, Songs, Programs & Stories for Children** *and*  
**Issues of Interest to Parents with Young Children**

## **Issues of Interest to Parents with Young Children**

### **Access for All: Integrating Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing Preschoolers**

**V 371.912**

Excellent guide for accessibility in early childhood programs

### **Cochlear Implant Special (Deaf Mosaic #803)**

**V 371.912D**

This 1992 program confronts a controversial issue concerning deaf children

### **Language Says It All (Parts I and II)**

**V 649.1512L & V 649.1512O**

Part I: Parents learn to communicate with children who have hearing loss

Part II: Parents learn to read to children with hearing loss

### **Mom and Dad, Your Deaf Child is OK ...**

**V 649.1512F**

Interviews with parents and information from educators

### **Mr. Holland's Opus**

**V DRAMA**

A compelling drama featuring deaf characters

### **Read It Again and Again**

**V 371.912R**

David Schleper illustrates techniques for building literacy through shared reading

### **Reading to Deaf Children: Learning from Deaf Adults**

**V 371.912R**

Schleper outlines effective strategies used by deaf adults reading to deaf children

### **We Can Do Anything**

**V 781.63W**

Children who haven't let hearing loss keep them from living fully

see also: **ASL Lessons, Songs, Programs & Stories for Children**

## **ASL Lessons, Songs, Programs & Stories for Children**

### **ASL Lessons:**

#### **A Beginning Course in ASL (Bravo ASL!) V 419B**

Excellent for children, series of 16 videos

### **Songs and Programs presented in ASL:**

#### **Fantastic (From the set: A - H) VJ 975.5425F**

Entertainment for deaf and hard of hearing children ages 6 -10

#### **David Parker - The Sign for Friends VJ 419P**

Hearing children have fun learning signs with songs

#### **Shape Up 'n Sign VJ 613.75**

Exercise while learning the manual alphabet and signed numbers

#### **Sing 'n' Sign for Fun! VJ 419G**

Gaia and friends sing and sign upbeat, cheerful songs

#### **Special Me! VJ 362.42S**

Deaf children "sing" in ASL about their Christian faith

#### **God ... Who? VJ 231G**

Deaf children's program about God

### **Stories presented in ASL - "A Book A Day Series":**

#### **EEK! There's a Mouse in the House V JUV**

#### **If The Dinosaurs Come Back V JUV**

#### **A Mother for Choco V JUV**

#### **Sheep in a Shop V JUV**

#### **The Rat and the Tiger V JUV**

#### **Is This a House for Hermit Crab? V JUV**

#### **My First American Friend V JUV**

#### **Animal Tracks V JUV**

#### **Cats of Tiffany Street V JUV**

## **ASL Lessons, Songs, Programs & Stories for Children**

### *Stories presented in ASL – “A Book A Day Series” (continued):*

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Julius</b>  | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Super Cluck</b>                                   | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Watch Out, Ronald Morgan!</b>                     | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Three Cheers for Tacky</b>                        | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Who Put the Pepper in the Pot?</b>                | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Will and Orv</b>                                  | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express</b>         | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>The Bravest Dog Ever, The True Story of Balto</b> | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>My Buddy</b>                                      | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Everybody Cooks Rice</b>                          | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>A River Ran Wild</b>                              | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Uncle Jed’s Barbershop</b>                        | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>A River Dream</b>                                 | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Grandfather’s Journey</b>                         | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Jumanji</b>                                       | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Just A Dream</b>                                  | <b>V JUV</b> |

### *Stories presented in ASL – Read With Me Series:*

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>The Rainbow Fish / Small Green Snake</b>                | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>If I Ran the Zoo by Dr. Seuss</b>                       | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>The Very Busy Spider/Owl Babies/Monster Can’t Sleep</b> | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Elizabeth and Larry</b>                                 | <b>V JUV</b> |

### *Stories presented in ASL – Visual Storyreading Series (no audio):*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>The Gift of the Magi by O’Henry</b>          | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>The Lady and the Spider by Faith McNulty</b> | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Love You Forever by Robert Munsch</b>        | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>The Mitten by Jan Brett</b>                  | <b>V JUV</b> |

## **ASL Lessons, Songs, Programs & Stories for Children**

*Stories presented in ASL – Visual Storyreading Series (no audio) [continued]:*

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Town Mouse, Country Mouse by Jan Brett</b>    | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle</b> | <b>V JUV</b> |
| <b>Where's Spot? by Eric Hill</b>                | <b>V JUV</b> |

*Other Stories Presented in ASL:*

**Aesop in ASL** **CD-ROM J398A**

CD-ROM. Reads fables in ASL. Includes fun activities

**American Sign Language Christmas Stories** **V 394-26CA**

Signed by Bobby Giles and Doris Wilding

**American Sign Language Fairy Tales** **V 398F**

I and II; five tales on each, with voice-over

**Deaf Children Signers and More Deaf Children Signers** **V 419D**

Watch these children express themselves in sign

**The Land Before Time (I - IV)** **V JUV**

Signed by Linda Bove

**The Napping House** **V JUV**

ASL translation followed by a charming dramatization by deaf children

**Once Upon A Time #2** **VJ 398E**

The Emperor's New Clothes and Hans Clodhopper, signed by Bahan & Marbury

**Once Upon A Time #4** **VJ 398M**

The Musicians of Bremen, Rapunzel and Sleeping Beauty, signed by Bahan & Marbury

**Rosie's Walk** **CD-ROM JUV**

CD-ROM. Reads story in ASL or Signed English; activities

**Sign Me a Story** **V JUV**

The Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood told in ASL by Linda Bove

**Visual Tales: The House That Jack Built** **VJ 398H**

Billy Seago signs this rhyming poem



## **Intermediate to Advanced ASL Lessons**

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>ASL Sentences (Voice to Sign)</b>           | <b>V 419I</b> |
| Sign Enhancers Practice Series                 |               |
| <b>ASL Sentences (Sign to Voice)</b>           | <b>V 419I</b> |
| Sign Enhancers Practice Series                 |               |
| <b>ASL Mini-Stories</b>                        | <b>V 419I</b> |
| Sign Enhancers Practice Series                 |               |
| <b>ASL Stories</b>                             | <b>V 419I</b> |
| Sign Enhancers Practice Series                 |               |
| <b>ASL Dialogues</b>                           | <b>V 419I</b> |
| Sign Enhancers Practice Series                 |               |
| <b>ASL Funny Bones</b>                         | <b>V 419I</b> |
| Sign Enhancers Practice Series                 |               |
| <b>Finger Flicks™ Intermediate I, Tape I</b>   | <b>V 419F</b> |
| Eight lessons to improve fingerspelling skills |               |
| <b>Fingerspelled Names and Introductions</b>   | <b>V 419F</b> |
| Carol J. Patrie                                |               |
| <b>Linguistics of American Sign Language</b>   | <b>V 419L</b> |
| Clayton Valli                                  |               |
| <b>More ASL Sentences (Voice to Sign)</b>      | <b>V 419I</b> |
| Sign Enhancers Practice Series                 |               |
| <b>Number Signs for Everyone</b>               | <b>V 419N</b> |
| Cinnie MacDougall                              |               |
| <b>On Fire With Classifiers</b>                | <b>V 419O</b> |
| Tuccelli                                       |               |
| <b>Sign ASL? Sure, You Can!</b>                | <b>V 419S</b> |
| Tuccelli                                       |               |

*also recommended:* **All ASL literature, fiction & non-fiction videotapes and Reference Materials**

## **Sign Language Interpreting**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Developing Interpreting Skills:<br/>U.S. Post Office Safety Meeting</b>       | <b>V 419M</b>   |
| “You are there” interpreting a group meeting                                     |                 |
| <b>Developing Interpreting Skills:<br/>Meeting With a Real Estate Agent</b>      | <b>V 419M</b>   |
| “You are there” interpreting a one-to-one meeting                                |                 |
| <b>Interpreter Model Series: English-ASL (Lectures)</b>                          | <b>V 419I</b>   |
| Demonstrations of interpreting by two top interpreters                           |                 |
| <b>Interpreting in Various Settings</b>  | <b>V 419M</b>   |
| Massoud; voiced lectures, no captions  |                 |
| <b>Intro to Interpreting</b>   | <b>V 419M</b>   |
| Massoud; excellent preparation for interested students                           |                 |
| <b>It’s Just a Phrase You’re Going Through</b>                                   | <b>V 782.2I</b> |
| Mark Mitchum re: religious interpreting  |                 |
| <b>Practical Demonstrations of Transliteration<br/>&amp; Interpretation</b>      | <b>V 419P</b>   |
| PSE and ASL, follows Leo Dicker’s book, <i>Facilitating Manual Communication</i> |                 |
| <b>Technical Aspects of Interpreting</b>   | <b>V 419M</b>   |
| Lectures, voiced by Massoud  |                 |

*also recommended:* **All ASL literature, fiction & non-fiction videotapes** and  
**Reference Materials**

## **Classic Literature Translated in ASL**

### **American Freedom Speeches**

**V 808.85A**

Bill of Rights, Pledge of Allegiance, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Martin Luther King . . .

### **Genesis**

**V 222.11B**

Powerful ASL version of this classic by Deaf translator, Bob Alcorn

### **God's Heroes**

**V 220.92G**

Master Deaf storyteller, Bob Alcorn, brings Moses, Abraham, David, Daniel and other heroes into focus with ASL

### **Life of Christ**

**V 232.9B**

ASL translation of New Testament literature

### **Shakespeare Unmasked**

**V 419S**

Performed by Little Theatre of the Deaf

### **Sherlock Holmes:**

#### **The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle**

**V MYS**

Compelling mystery story with the greatest sleuth of all times

### **Sherlock Holmes:**

#### **The Adventure of the Speckled Band**

**V MYS**

Compelling mystery story with the greatest sleuth of all times

### **Sherlock Holmes: The Red Headed League**

**V MYS**

Compelling mystery story with the greatest sleuth of all times

## Poetry and Artistic ASL

### **ASL Poetry: Selected Works of Clayton Valli**

**V 811V**

Poems, hidden meanings, and clues to understanding

### **From a Gator Ride to the Dentist Office & United States of ASL Poetry**

**V 792.7C**

**V 811U**

People of all ages will enjoy these funny, fascinating and sometimes serious pieces by Peter Cook

### **Mark Mitchum: Your Favorites**

**V 783M**

Classic Christian hymns in ASL

### **Poetry in Motion**

**V 811V V 811G V 811R**

Original ASL poems by Clayton Valli, Patrick Graybill and Debbie Rennie

### **The Treasure**

**V 811L**

Original ASL poems by Ella Mae Lentz

## Stories, Comedy and Drama

- ABC Stories** **V 419A**  
A unique art form utilizing the letters of the manual alphabet
- ASL Literature Series:**
- Bird of a Different Feather & For a Decent Living** **V 792B**  
A fable signed by Ben Bahan and a story signed by Sam Suppalla
- The Bridge** **V 792B**  
An opera by William Moses in ASL with a universal theme
- From a Gator Ride to the Dentist Office & United States of ASL Poetry** **V 792.7C**  
**V 811U**  
People of all ages will enjoy these funny, fascinating and sometimes serious pieces by Peter Cook
- Gil Eastman** **V 792.7E**  
Founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf performs “live”
- Man of a Thousand Faces** **V DRAMA**  
Lon Chaney, a hearing child of deaf parents; he became a legend in silent films
- Mary Beth Miller** **V 792.7M**  
Founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf performs “live”
- Signing Treasures** **V 419S**  
Skits, jokes, stories, deaf folklore, and poetic works
- Tales from the Green Books** **V 419A**  
Signed stories from a popular ASL instructional series
- Telling Stories** **V 792T**  
A gestural play by William Moses. Deaf actors re-enact a common history of hard-won battles for freedom of expression.
- Tomorrow Dad Will Still Be Deaf and Other Stories** **V 362.42T**  
Bonnie Kraft, daughter of Deaf parents

## **History of Deaf People and Sign Language**

### **ADA: Access for Deaf Americans**

**V 346.013A**

Presented in ASL, with open captioning and voice-over

### **ASL Pah!**

### **Deaf Students' Perspectives on Their Language**

**V 419A**

Deaf students describe the impact of ASL on their lives

### **Class of '52**

**V 371.912C**

Documentary on the history of Black deaf students at Kendall School in D.C.

### **Deaf Mosaic #611**

**V 371.912D**

Features "I Didn't Hear That Color" – a play; deaf World War II contributions

### **Deaf President Now (Deaf Mosaic #402)**

**V 371.912D**

1988 protest resulting in the appointment of Gallaudet University's first Deaf president, Dr. I. King Jordan

### **Impact of Deaf History on Our Lives**

**V 305.908I**

Jack Gannon speaks at the First International Conference on Deaf History

### **Inauguration of Dr. I. King Jordan**

### **(Deaf Mosaic #409)**

**V 371.912D**

Features October 1988 inauguration of Gallaudet University's first Deaf president

### **Laurent Clerc**

**V B CLERC**

A biography about America's first Deaf teacher

### **The L.A.C.D.**

**V 362.42L**

Los Angeles Club of the Deaf Story

### **National Association of the Deaf, 42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention**

### **Highlights (July 4-10, 1994; Knoxville, Tennessee)**

**V 362.42N**

Glimpses of an exciting NAD convention (no audio)

### **The Preservation of American Sign Language**

**V 419 P**

Archival films transferred to video

### **Telling Stories**

**V 792T**

This play by William Moses could be described as a type of "historical fiction."

Deaf actors re-enact a common history of hard-won battles for freedom of expression.

## Biographies

### **An Interview with Bernard Bragg: The Man Behind the Mask**

**V B BRAGG**

Based on the book *“Lessons in Laughter: The Autobiography of a Deaf Actor.”*

A fascinating biography of a Deaf man who worked with Marcel Marceau

### **Laurent Clerc**

**V B CLERC**

A biography about America’s first Deaf teacher

### **Deaf Mosaic #212**

**V 371.912D**

Features author Lou Ann Walker; features Alice L. Hagemeyer

### **Deaf Mosaic #404**

**V 371.912D**

Features a tribute to the late Dr. Andrew Foster – first Black Deaf graduate of Gallaudet and founder of more than 20 schools for the deaf in Africa

### **Inauguration of Dr. I. King Jordan (Deaf Mosaic #409)**

**V 371.912D**

Features October 1988 inauguration of Gallaudet University’s first Deaf president

### **Charles Krauel**

**V B KRAUEL**

A profile of a Deaf filmmaker

### **A Tribute to Art Kruger (1911-1992)**

**V B KRUGER**

The Deaf founder of the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD)

## **Religion and Inspiration**

### **Genesis**

**V 222.11B**

Bible book translation signed in ASL by Bob Alcorn

### **God's Heroes**

**V 220.92G**

Stories signed in ASL by Bob Alcorn

### **God ... Who?**

**VJ 231G**

Children's program about God

### **Holiness of God**

**V 231.4S**

R.C. Sproul; ASL interpretation

### **Life of Christ**

**V232.9B**

New Testament literature in ASL

### **Mark Mitchum: Your Favorites**

**V 783M**

Classic Christian hymns signed in ASL

### **Special Me!**

**VJ 362.42S**

Deaf children "sing" in ASL about their Christian faith

### **Surprised by Suffering**

**V 248.865**

R.C. Sproul; ASL interpretation by Chuck Snyder



## How to ...

### **Bummy's Basic Parliamentary Workshop** **V 328.1B**

Teaches how to lead meetings

### **Banking Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** **V 332.1B**

Crestar Bank created this video with ASL, captions and voice-over

### **Helpful Hints for Buying a Home** **V 643.1H**

Crestar Bank created this video with ASL, captions and voice-over

### **Investment Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing** **V 332.6I**

Crestar Bank created this video with ASL, captions and voice-over

### **Sign Writing:** **V 419L**

1. Introduction to Sign Writing
2. Sign Writing Basics

### **History of Sign Writing:** **V 419L**

1. How Deaf Opinions Changed
2. How SignWriting Changed

### **The ASLTA Evaluation & Certification System** **V 419A**

Hope to become certified as an ASL teacher? Check this out

### **The Basics of Teaching ASL** **V 419B**

This tape helps teachers of ASL organize their classes

## **Health and Safety Issues**

### **Choosing a Healthy Lifestyle**

**V 631T**

Tells about good eating and exercise, and health habits

### **Cochlear Implant Special (Deaf Mosaic #803)**

**V 371.912D**

This 1992 program confronts a controversial issue concerning deaf children

### **Deaf Parenthood: Raising a Healthy Child**

**V 649.1D**

Presentation in ASL, with captions and voice-over

### **Fire Safety Starts With You**

**V 628.92**

Basic safety practices, described in ASL with voice-over

### **I Can: Stories of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in Recovery**

**V 362.29I**

Six Deaf and hard of hearing recovering addicts and alcoholics share their stories

### **Planning for Parenthood**

**V 618.2P**

Presentations in ASL, with captions and voice-over

### **Protect Yourself: A Basic Guide to Self Defense**

Presented in ASL, this video may increase personal confidence

### **Your Physical Exam**

**V 616.075T**

Explains the importance of a physical exam and what is involved

## Reference Materials

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>NTID/RIT Technical Signs: Business</b>  | <b>V 419V</b> |
| Demonstrates business vocabulary   |               |
| <b>NTID/RIT Technical Signs: Science / Biology</b>   | <b>V 419N</b> |
| Demonstrates science / biology vocabulary  |               |
| <b>NTID/RIT Technical Signs: Sports / General</b>  | <b>V 419N</b> |
| Demonstrates sports vocabulary   |               |
| <b>Pursuit of ASL: Interesting Facts Using Classifiers</b>                                     | <b>V 419P</b> |
| The signer explains 35 interesting topics, using ASL classifiers in natural ways<br>(no audio) |               |
| <b>Religious Signs Vocabulary</b>  | <b>V 419R</b> |
| Provides religious sign vocabulary information   |               |
| <b>Video Dictionary of ASL Signs<br/>English - Spanish Edition</b>                             | <b>V 419V</b> |
| Provides a list of sign vocabulary, with English and Spanish captions                          |               |

## **A Brief Biography of Laurent Clerc (1785 - 1869)**

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Laurent Clerc was born in France in 1785. An injury in early childhood is thought to have caused his deafness. He attended a school for deaf children in Paris (the Royal Institution) run by Abbe Sicard. Clerc was an excellent student, and eventually became a highly respected teacher at the school.

Meanwhile, in America, Mason Fitch Cogswell was wondering how to educate his little girl, Alice, who was deaf. A man named Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet took an interest in teaching Alice and improvised some simple lessons, which delighted Alice and inspired her father to finance Gallaudet's voyage to Europe to learn more about teaching methods used with the deaf. Clerc chose to accept Gallaudet's invitation to help found a school for deaf children in America. While en route, Clerc taught Gallaudet signs from the French Sign Language, and learned English from Gallaudet. Together, they established the first permanent school for the deaf in America, in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1817.

Signs used by deaf persons in America naturally blended with French signs used at the school, and American Sign Language developed. American Sign Language - ASL - is now a sophisticated, complex and powerful language on par with any spoken language. ASL is the language of preference for a majority of Deaf Americans. ASL is also used in parts of Canada and other locations around the globe, but most countries have their own unique sign language.

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) raised funds for restoration of the headstones at the Hartford, Connecticut burial site of Laurent Clerc and his wife, Eliza. The new headstones were dedicated with a ceremony on April 17, 1998. Several Deaf persons from France attended the ceremony.

Clerc is remembered as America's first Deaf teacher. His contribution to the natural development of ASL is deeply appreciated. In honor of this admired hero, a gift of over 200 ASL video resources was provided to the Fairfax County Public Library in May 1999. The "*Laurent Clerc American Sign Language Video Collection*," funded by the Crestar Foundation, was prepared and delivered by ASL Access, a non-profit organization. A biographical video of Laurent Clerc is included in the collection.



**Looking for American Sign Language?  
Look to Libraries with ASL Access!**

**American Sign Language (ASL) is a unique and complete language. Deaf and hearing people use ASL for everyday communication, access to information, education, and artistic expression. And now ASL is coming to public libraries!**

**ASL Access partners with interested public libraries  
– with your help – to put ASL videos on the shelves.**

**ASL Access raises funds to create collections of more than 200 ASL videos.  
Qualified deaf and hearing volunteer reviewers help choose the videos.  
ASL Access donates the collections to selected public libraries.**

#### **ASL Instruction Videos**

**The large majority of deaf children have hearing parents. ASL Access Video Collections serve these families, as well as countless other learners of ASL, with dozens of teaching videos.**

#### **Deaf History Videos**

**Videos trace the history and describe traditions of the Deaf Community.**

#### **ASL Literature Videos**

**ASL poets paint the air. Storytellers entertain. Classic literature comes alive in ASL.**

#### **Informational Videos in ASL**

**With public libraries as a point of connection, deaf people all across America meet in virtual visits, using ASL to talk together like neighbors over a fence. Children swap funny stories. Deaf parents offer advice. Deaf Ph.D.'s debate. ASL signers offer a hand up to those who learn best with ASL. Information becomes accessible through ASL.**

**ASL Access Video Collections in public libraries open so many doors.  
Communication. Literacy. Careers. New friendships. New directions.**

**You can make a difference!**

**Support ASL Access today. See a new world tomorrow.**

**ASL Access is a volunteer, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization.  
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*A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs.*

## People Are Talking About ASL Access

“I would like to express my support for this project. Being deaf myself, and involved in deaf education for over 25 years, I know well the great need to get sign language into the hands (so to speak) of deaf children and their parents as early as possible in the child's life. Early exposure, to the only language that a deaf person has full access to, is crucial for that person's educational, personal, and social development. And from a quarter century as a professional librarian, I know how well-suited public libraries are as community resources for this type of outreach, being located in all types of communities, large and small, urban and rural, serving all types of people . . .”

- Thomas Harrington, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Gallaudet University Library, Washington, DC

“Parents realize the importance of early language development. When (they decide) to provide visual communication to their young children they soon discover that sign language classes alone are not enough ... Project ASL Access will allow people to go to the library and help themselves to ASL videos, finding a rich repository of visual communication resources . . .”

-Sandy Harvey, Executive Director, American Society for Deaf Children

“My husband and I have a young deaf daughter approximately one year of age. We have chosen to teach her American Sign Language. During the past year, we have taken course work and hired tutors to teach us sign language. However, we have found that these do not meet all our needs and the needs of our daughter. On numerous occasions we have searched local libraries for ASL materials, but very few are available. Even fewer videos are available for our daughter who would love to enjoy literature and movies in her primary language. Her grandparents also find it difficult to learn ASL in Ohio because even fewer resources are available. After reading *ASL Access*' goals, we fully support your efforts and know other parents would appreciate them also.”

-Eric and Susan Lengel, Virginia

“ASL Access' campaign to donate ASL videotape collections to libraries across the United States is a significant humanitarian effort. Sensitivity and awareness from the general public of issues, needs, and cultural norms of the nation's deaf community will be greatly enhanced. Employment, education, and integration into the general mainstream will emerge more as meaningful and gainful factors for the deaf citizen's opportunities to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We congratulate ASL Access for its vision and commitment for this important project.”

-Claude L. Stout, Executive Director, Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. (TDI)

“It is a well known fact that the majority of deaf and hard of hearing children are born to hearing parents, and that many of these families also reside in small communities with limited exposure to American Sign Language (ASL) deaf and hard of hearing adult role models. Therefore, distribution of ASL-based videotapes and related materials through our nation's public library system is a wonderful way to ‘get the word out’ to the public.”

-Elizabeth Pollard, President, National Association of the Deaf

# How To Communicate

by Christine Wixtrom

*The Deaf American*, Fall 1988

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## 1. ESTABLISH POSITIVE COMMUNICATION GOALS:

- ◆ I want to “hear” and “see” you - to UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAY.
- ◆ I want to SHARE MYSELF - my ideas and feelings - WITH YOU.
- ◆ I want to GIVE AND RECEIVE CLEAR MESSAGES.
- ◆ I want to ENJOY TALKING WITH YOU AS A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL.

## 2. RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO USE YOUR STYLE OF “COMMUNICATION” AS A SHIELD, A SWORD, OR A BANNER:

- ◆ Don’t talk without taking time to listen.
- ◆ Don’t use “communication” to dominate and manipulate others, forcing them to use the method of communication, language, grammar or vocabulary choices that you prefer.
- ◆ Don’t try to promote your preferred method of communication as The One True Way. (Instead, do demonstrate flexibility and tolerance by allowing each person to express and receive communication as he or she prefers.)

## 3. SHOW CREATIVITY:

- ◆ If your first attempt to communicate fails, try another way!

## MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFUL SIGN LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION

### 1. WILLING HANDS

You can do it! The main requirement is willingness, not manual dexterity, perfect hands or talent.

People who face all kinds of barriers have learned to sign, including those with arthritis, cerebral palsy, missing fingers, big or small hands. Just remember that it may take some time for you to learn to feel comfortable using hands, face, and body to talk.

### 2. AN EYE FOR UNDERSTANDING

If you demonstrate a positive attitude, you will have success. An attitude of respectful interest is far more important than fluency.

Most of us are not used to depending on our eyes to capture fleeting information. But “reading” sign language is a skill, like any other, that can be practiced and learned. Rather than striving to see every sign, relax and just try to get a general idea of what is being said. Don’t be afraid to ask for clarification.

### 3. AN OPEN MIND

Most importantly, keep an open mind about communication strategies. There are many ways to communicate. It doesn’t much matter HOW communication happens. Do whatever you can to “make it happen!”

# What Is Sign Language?

by Christine Wixtrom

*The Deaf American*, Summer 1988 (Updated July 1998)

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That's a good question! There are many types of gestural communication, and sometimes the term "sign language" just doesn't make it clear which form is being discussed. Here are a few brief explanations to help clear up the confusion.

## FINGERSPELLING, OR THE MANUAL ALPHABET

Fingerspelling is a method of representing the letters of the alphabet with the hand. Forming different shapes with your hand, you can spell out words such as: "H-O-W A-R-E Y-O-U?" Manual alphabets are not languages; they are visual codes for languages. The one-handed American Manual Alphabet is a code for English. (A two-handed manual alphabet is used in Europe.) There are different manual alphabets used to code different languages.

## AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE, OR AMESLAN, OR ASL

ASL is a visual-gestural language. ASL developed in a natural manner, as a means of clear visual communication used among deaf people. ASL was created by deaf people and belongs to their culture, Deaf Culture. Today, ASL is used by millions of Americans and Canadians of all ages. The units of ASL are composed of specific movements of the hands and arms, eyes, face, head and body posture. These movements, or gestures, represent concepts and serve as the "words" of the language. Precise syntactical rules and grammatical principles dictate proper ASL "word" (sign) order, tense indicators, intonation and other aspects of ASL language use. The grammar of ASL is completely different from (and unrelated to) the grammar of the English language. Linguistic research has shown, however, that ASL is as "rich" and "complete" as any spoken language.

## MANUALLY CODED ENGLISH

(MCE may also be termed SSS, Sign Supported Speech, or SSE, Sign Supported English)

There are a number of signing systems that were artificially devised in order to teach English to deaf children. MCE systems use manual signs to represent English visually. Signs used in these systems may be taken from ASL, but these vocabulary units are used to represent English words (rather than to represent concepts, as they do in ASL). Some new signs are contrived (invented) for English words or word parts in these systems. All signs are used in English grammatical order. Thus, these forms of manual communication are not languages - they are systems. Using one of these manual systems along with spoken English is a method of communication called "simultaneous communication" ( or "sim-com"). Some MCE systems: Seeing Essential English (SEE1), Signing Exact English (SEE2), Linguistics of Visual English (LOVE) and Signed English (Bornstein, et al.).

## PIDGIN SIGN ENGLISH (PSE, or CONTACT SIGN)

When some ASL signs, some newer signs, some contrived signs and fingerspelling are used in flexible grammatical order, this is referred to as Pidgin Sign English. (Recent research has determined that "contact sign" is a more accurate term.) PSE is not a structured system, but a natural mix of two languages, ASL and English. One of the varieties within this category is Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE). Users of CASE will choose a sign on the basis of its meaning in ASL, rather than on the basis of its sound or spelling in English. The signs are used in English grammatical order, and may be accompanied by English mouth movements. (Note: Persons transferring someone else's spoken language into an English-like signed format are said to be transliterating. This is in contrast to the conveyance of a spoken English message into its equivalent in the language of ASL - or an ASL message into English - which is called interpreting.)

## PANTOMIME

Pantomime is not "sign language." Pantomime is not a language at all. Pantomime includes motions, gestures and dramatics used to communicate. It is used in theatre, and between people who do not share a common language.

## References:

1. *ASL: A Look At Its History, Structure, and Community*, by Charlotte Baker/Carol Padden
2. *Sign Language Interpreting: A Basic Resource Book*, by Sharon N. Solow
3. *ASL: Fact and Fancy*, by Harry Markowicz.



## **Sources for Obtaining These and Other ASL Videos**

**For more information about the videos in this collection,  
and other available ASL videos,  
visit the ASL Access web site at:**

**[www.aslaccess.org](http://www.aslaccess.org)**

**The information on the web site  
(updated frequently)  
includes:**

**Reviews of ASL Video Resources**  
*(The Largest Collection of ASL Video Reviews Available)*

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**A List of Places Where You Can Purchase ASL Videos**  
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