GUIDEBOOK for The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System American Sign Language Video Collection

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Basic ASL Lessons

The ASL Phrase Book video set
Very practical signs and sentences for everyday conversations

A Basic Course in ASL
This series gets right to the point with clear sign language instruction

A Beginning Course in ASL (Bravo ASL!)
15 lessons from a top-rated ASL series, with cultural notes and stories

Coffee Break Sign Lessons (1-5, 6-10)
Dr. Mike Tuccelli teaches signs with emphasis on conceptual accuracy

Conversational Sign Language
Ray Bearden teaches the manual alphabet and 90 sentences

The Face of ASL
Basic ASL grammar by Bienvenu and Colonomus

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

Learning American Sign Language
Fun, user-friendly book and video set by Humphries and Padden

On Fire With Classifiers
Tuccelli shows how these signs are important to ASL grammar

Say It By Signing
Elaine Costello’s video shows sign used in greetings, chatting & shopping

Say It With Sign!
Lively video from popular series

Sign ASL? Sure, You Can!
Easy overview of ASL grammar by Tuccelli

Sign Language Crash Course: I and II
With this set, learners get ASL, PSE and cultural tips

Signing Fiesta
These ASL lessons are translated in Spanish and English

Signing Naturally Videotext
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
An excellent set, also useful for daycare workers

Sign Language Will Enhance Your Child’s Intelligence
The value of early sign use. Basic signs and information

Sign With Me
Very clear communication techniques to use with infants/toddlers

Sign With Your Baby
Teaches parents how to teach sign to their hearing babies

Signing Time! / Play Time Signs / Everyday Signs
Leah (deaf), Alex (hearing), and their friends make it easy to learn sign vocabulary

Talking Hands
Babies and others learn 30 ASL signs from this live-action video

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
Excellent guide for accessibility in early childhood programs

Cochlear Implants: Covering the Basics
Provides current information on this device

Finger Food Café
A café for deaf and hearing people sets the scene for unexpected blessings

Language Says It All (Parts I and II)
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 ...  
Interviews with parents and information from educators

Mr. Holland’s Opus
A compelling drama featuring deaf characters

Passport Without A Country
Adults with Deaf parents talk about their experiences
(Australian sign, spoken English)

Read It Again and Again
David Schleper illustrates techniques for building literacy through shared reading

Reading to Deaf Children: Learning from Deaf Adults
Schleper outlines effective strategies used by deaf adults reading to deaf children

We Can Do Anything
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!)
Excellent for children, series of 15 videos

Songs and Programs presented in ASL:

Fantastic ("C" and "F" from the set A-H)
Entertainment for deaf and hard of hearing children ages 6-10

Rainbow's End
Designed for deaf children, these programs appeal to most kids

Shape Up 'N Sign
Low impact kids' exercise program with signing

Sing, Dance 'n' Sign
Entertaining for young children; teaches sign

Sing 'n' Sign for Fun!
Gaia and friends sing and sign upbeat, cheerful songs

Stories presented in ASL – “A Book A Day Series”:

Animal Tracks
The Bravest Dog Ever, The True Story of Balto
Cats of Tiffany Street
Eek! There’s a Mouse in the House
Everybody Cooks Rice
Grandfather’s Journey
If The Dinosaurs Come Back
Is This a House for Hermit Crab?
Julius
Jumanji
Just A Dream
Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express
A Mother for Choco
My Buddy
My First American Friend
The Rat and the Tiger
A River Dream
ASL Lessons, Songs, Programs & Stories for Children

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

A River Ran Wild
Sheep in a Shop
Super Cluck
Three Cheers for Tacky
Uncle Jed’s Barbershop
Watch Out, Ronald Morgan!
Who Put the Pepper in the Pot?
Will and Orv

Stories presented in ASL – Read With Me Series:

Sharing the Joy of Storytelling with Your Deaf Toddler
Where the Wild Things Are / More Bunny Trouble
How the Grinch Stole Christmas/
  The Wolf’s Chicken Stew
The Mitten / King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub
The Rainbow Fish / Small Green Snake
If I Ran the Zoo by Dr. Seuss
The Very Busy Spider/
  Owl Babies/Monster Can’t Sleep
Elizabeth and Larry
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
The Mixed-Up Chameleon

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

The Lady and the Spider
Our New Puppy
ASL Lessons, Songs, Programs & Stories for Children

Other Stories Presented in ASL:

American Sign Language Christmas Stories
Signed by Bobby Giles and Doris Wilding

American Sign Language Fairy Tales
I and II; five tales on each, with voice-over

Deaf Children Signers and More Deaf Children Signers
Watch these children express themselves in sign

Fairy Tale Classics
Selected favorites from “Four For You” and “High Five”

The Land Before Time (I - IV)
ASL translation by Linda Bove

Libros en Accion
Translating Spanish stories to ASL

Number Stories
Collection of 13 animal stories created and signed by Deaf children ages 4-14

Once Upon A Time (1-6)
Children’s classics retold in ASL by Bahan & Marbury
1. The Little Mermaid
2. The Emperor’s New Clothes
3. The Fisherman & His Wife and Hansel & Gretel
4. The Musicians of Bremen, Rapunzel and Sleeping Beauty
5. The Princess & The Pea and Inchelina
6. Cinderella and Rumpelstiltskin

Sign Me a Story
The Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood told in ASL by Linda Bove

That’s Sign, Folks!
Linda Bove translates cartoon classics

Visual Tales
Billy Seago signs these classic stories
1. The Father, The Son, and The Donkey
2. The Greedy Cat
3. The House That Jack Built
4. The Magic Pot
5. Village Stew
Intermediate to Advanced ASL Lessons

ASL Vocabulary (6B)
Sign Enhancers Practice Series

ASL Vocabulary, Affect & Structure (6C)
Sign Enhancers Practice Series

ASL Sentences (6D)
Sign Enhancers Practice Series

ASL Mini-Stories (6E)
Sign Enhancers Practice Series

ASL Stories (6F)
Sign Enhancers Practice Series

ASL Dialogues (6G)
Sign Enhancers Practice Series

ASL Funny Bones (6H)
Sign Enhancers Practice Series

Deaf Tend Your
Non-manual signals (NMS) in ASL

Finger Flicks Intermediate I, Tape I
Eight lessons to improve fingerspelling skills

Fingerspelled Names and Introductions
Carol J. Patrie

Fingerspelling Expressive & Receptive Fluency
Joyce Linden

Linguistics of American Sign Language
Clayton Valli

Mouth Morphemes
Mouth-centered facial grammar in ASL, taught by Struxness

Number Signs for Everyone
Cinnie MacDougall

On Fire With Classifiers
Tuccelli

Sign ASL? Sure, You Can!
Tuccelli

also recommended: All ASL literature, fiction & non-fiction videotapes and Reference Materials
Sign Language Interpreting

The Art of Interpreting
   User-friendly basic interpreting set

Developing Interpreting Skills:
U.S. Post Office Safety Meeting
   “You are there” interpreting a group meeting

Developing Interpreting Skills:
Meeting With a Real Estate Agent
   “You are there” interpreting a one-to-one meeting

Interpreter Model Series: English-ASL (Lectures)
   Demonstrations of interpreting by two top interpreters

Interpreting in Various Settings
   Massoud; voiced lectures, no captions

Intro to Interpreting
   Massoud; excellent preparation for interested students

It’s Just a Phrase You’re Going Through
   Mark Mitchum re: religious interpreting

Practical Demonstrations of Transliteration
& Interpretation
   PSE and ASL, follows Leo Dicker’s book, Facilitating Manual Communication

Technical Aspects of Interpreting
   Lectures, voiced by Massoud

also recommended: All ASL literature, fiction & non-fiction videotapes and Reference Materials
Classic Literature Translated in ASL

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

Shakespeare Unmasked
   Performed by Little Theatre of the Deaf

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes:
The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle
   Compelling mystery story with the greatest sleuth of all times

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes:
The Adventure of the Speckled Band
   Compelling mystery story with the greatest sleuth of all times

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Red Headed League
   Compelling mystery story with the greatest sleuth of all times
Poetry and Artistic ASL

ASL Poetry: Selected Works of Clayton Valli
   Poems, hidden meanings, and clues to understanding
From a Gator Ride to the Dentist Office &
United States of ASL Poetry
   People of all ages will enjoy these funny, fascinating and sometimes serious pieces
   by Peter Cook
Poetry in Motion
   Original ASL poems by Clayton Valli, Patrick Graybill and Debbie Rennie
The Treasure
   Original ASL poems by Ella Mae Lentz
Stories, Comedy and Drama

ABC Stories
A unique art form utilizing the letters of the manual alphabet

A-Z Stories: “Professions”
Collection of nine fascinating stories created and signed by Andrew Byrne

ASL Literature Series:
Bird of a Different Feather & For a Decent Living
A fable signed by Ben Bahan and a story signed by Sam Suppalla

The Bridge
An opera by William Moses in ASL with a universal theme

DEAFology 101 Comedy Show
This “class” is just for laughs

From a Gator Ride to the Dentist Office &
United States of ASL Poetry
People of all ages will enjoy these funny, fascinating and sometimes serious pieces by Peter Cook

Gil Eastman
Founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf performs “live”

The Golden Legacy
Mystery/Drama/Comedy/Adventure - all in ASL

Man of a Thousand Faces
Lon Chaney, a hearing child of deaf parents, became a legend in silent films

Mary Beth Miller
Founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf performs “live”

Signing Treasures
Skits, jokes, stories, deaf folklore, and poetic works

Tales from the Green Books
Signed stories from a popular ASL instructional series

Telling Stories
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
Bonnie Kraft, daughter of Deaf parents

You Think DEAF People Have Problems?
Hilarious video frames hearing people as pathological, for a change
History & Culture of Deaf People and Sign Language

**ASL Pah!**

**Deaf Students’ Perspectives on Their Language**
Deaf students describe the impact of ASL on their lives

**Class of ’52**
Documentary on the history of Black deaf students at Kendall School in D.C.

**Deaf Mosaic #611**
Features “I Didn’t Hear That Color” – a play; deaf World War II contributions

**Deaf President Now (Deaf Mosaic #402)**
1988 protest resulting in the appointment of Gallaudet University’s first Deaf president, Dr. I. King Jordan

**Impact of Deaf History on Our Lives**
Jack Gannon speaks at the First International Conference on Deaf History

**Laurent Clerc**
A biography about America’s first Deaf teacher

**The L.A.C.D.**
Los Angeles Club of the Deaf Story

**National Association of the Deaf, 42nd Biennial Convention Highlights (July 4-10, 1994; Knoxville, Tennessee)**
Glimpses of an exciting NAD convention (no audio)

**The Preservation of American Sign Language**
Archival films transferred to video

**See What I Mean: Differences Between Deaf and Hearing Cultures**
Tom Holcomb and Anna Mindess demonstrate cultural differences in a fun, effective manner

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

Charles Krauel
A profile of a Deaf filmmaker

Deaf Mosaic #212
Features author Lou Ann Walker; features Alice L. Hagemeyer

Deaf Mosaic #404
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

The Films of Charles Krauel
Archival footage by Charles Krauel gives glimpses of Deaf Culture

The Hearing World Around Me
Trix Bruce performs stories, skits and poems

Howie Seago - Deaf Culture Autobiography
A popular Deaf actor tells how he got started on stage

Laurent Clerc
A biography about America’s first Deaf teacher

Moving Pictures, Moving Hands:
The Ernest Marshall Story
This Deaf artistic pioneer filmed plays in ASL

Summer’s Story
Summer Crider tells about growing up deaf, using a cochlear implant, and finding Deaf Culture

A Tribute to Art Kruger (1911-1992)
The Deaf founder of the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD)
Religion and Inspiration

Bring the Bible Alive with ASL Classifiers
   Trix Bruce teaches classifier use through stories

Finger Food Café
   A café for deaf and hearing people sets the scene for unexpected blessings

Genesis
   Bible book translation signed in ASL by Bob Alcorn

God’s Heroes
   Stories signed in ASL by Bob Alcorn

God ... Who?
   Children’s program about God

Jesus Film
   Popular movie with sign language interpretation

Life of Christ
   New Testament literature in ASL

Lift Up Holy Hands
   Beautifully filmed sign translations of songs

Mark Mitchum: Forgiven
   Inspiring performance signed in ASL

Mark Mitchum: Your Favorites
   Classic Christian hymns signed in ASL

Special Me!
   Deaf children “sing” in ASL about their Christian faith

A Taste of Heaven
   Mark Mitchum’s musical ASL interpretation
How to ...

Resources for Sign Instructors:

The ASLTA Evaluation & Certification System
Hope to become certified as an ASL teacher? Check this out

The Basics of Teaching ASL
This tape helps teachers of ASL organize their classes

Written Sign Language:

SignWriting:
1. Introduction to SignWriting
2. SignWriting Basics

History of SignWriting:
1. How Deaf Opinions Changed
2. How SignWriting Changed

Learn to Read ASL in SignWriting:
Goldilocks & The Three Bears transcribed; intermediate and advanced storybooks

Deaf-Blind Communications:

Deaf-Blind Communication & Community:
Overview and Introduction
Describes the community
Getting Involved: A Conversation
Theresa Smith with two Deaf-Blind individuals and their interpreters

Leading Meetings:

Bummy’s Basic Parliamentary Workshop
Teaches how to lead meetings

Cooking:

The Tomato Chef
Jeff Perri (deaf) teaches how to prepare delicious, heart-healthy meals
Health and Safety Issues

Alcoholics Anonymous in American Sign Language
    Five volume set translating the Big Book

Anywhere to Anyone
    Domestic violence in the Deaf community

The Asthma Classroom
    Deaf young people explain how they handle asthma

Choosing a Healthy Lifestyle
    Tells about good eating and exercise, and health habits

Cochlear Implants: Covering the Basics
    Provides current information on this device

Fire Safety Starts With You
    Basic safety practices, described in ASL with voice-over

I Can: Stories of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in Recovery
    Real life struggles with alcohol and drug abuse issues

It’s Not Just Hearing AIDS: Deaf People & The Epidemic
    Learn how not to get sick with AIDS, what to do if you have AIDS, and how to help someone with AIDS

Martial Signing
    Sign language comes in handy for self-defense

Protect Yourself: A Basic Guide to Self Defense
    Presented in ASL, this video may increase personal confidence

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in ASL
    Five volume set from Alcoholics Anonymous

Your Physical Exam
    Explains the importance of a physical exam and what is involved
Reference Materials

Pursuit of ASL: Interesting Facts Using Classifiers
The signer explains 35 interesting topics, using ASL classifiers in natural ways (no audio)

Religious Signs Vocabulary
Provides religious sign vocabulary information

Video Dictionary of ASL Signs
English - Spanish Edition
Provides a list of sign vocabulary, with English and Spanish captions
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 has created a collection of more than 200 ASL videos. Qualified deaf and hearing volunteer reviewers helped choose the videos. ASL Access places the collections in 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.


You can make a difference!

Support ASL Access today. See a new world tomorrow.

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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)

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 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
Information on 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

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

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

Information About FREE ASL Videos!

A List of Places Where You Can Buy ASL Videos
(The Most Complete List of ASL Video Distributors Available)