

AN INTRODUCTION TO KEY WORD SIGN

for parents & carers



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hi! I'm Meg. I'm an early childhood intervention teacher, with a Masters in Learning Intervention from Melbourne University, and an Auslan (Australian Sign Language) Interpreter. More important than that, I'm a mum to two delightful little people.
Since starting Baby Sign, I have helped hundreds of families discover the amazing benefits of key word sign across a variety of settings. KWS can be a game changes for families with little people who have a condition that is likely to delay speech.

MEG MAHON

LET'S START HERE!

IN THIS EBOOK YOU WILL FIND LOTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT KEY WORD SIGN. ITS BENEFITS & HOW TO GET STARTED SIGNING TODAY!



WHAT IS KEY WORD SIGN?

Key Word Sign is the use of signs and gestures with speech to support language development. In Australia we borrow these signs from Auslan - Australian Sign Language - the language of the Australian Deaf Community.

Key word sign can be used with all children and supports language development. Discover more in the next section...

01. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

There are both short and long term benefits to learning to sign with children. These include: earlier communication, clearer communication, improved wellbeing & safety, and with better language, children's literacy is also supported.

COMMUNICATION

Key word sign is a wonderful tool for children and parents because it allows children to communicate before they can talk, will clarify speech when it is unclear, and has been linked to having larger vocabularies. It is also helps with fine motor skills, connection and even literacy.

WELLBEING & SAFETY

Giving children a tool to communicate not only their needs but also their interests empowers them and helps them feel connects. Supporting language also keeps children safe from harm and abuse.



The first 3 years of a child's life is critical for their language development. By starting today, you can support them to be better connected, communicate easier and work towards language goals earlier.

02. WHO CAN BENEFIT?

Educators and children both benefit from key word signing because it improves communication on both sides!

CHILDREN

Children benefit from learning KWS because it gives them a tool to communicate before they can speak. Imagine knowing what's going on, but not being able to say what you want, need or just share something you find interesting. KWS empowers young children to communicate clearer!

PARENTS & CARERS

When children are able to communicate their wants, needs and interests, it helps parents too. It allows you to better meet your child's needs, support their learning and connect better.



One of my favourite moments as a professional was supporting a young child to develop language and hearing the joy from her family when she was able to say "I love you" to her mum, dad and sister!

3 STEPS TO START SIGNING

01

STEP ONE

LEARN SOME SIGNS! THERE ARE PLENTY OF FREE RESOURCES ONLINE OR YOU CAN JOIN A GROUP CLASS OR A PRIVATE SESSION (ELIGIBLE NDIS FUNDED)

02

STEP TWO

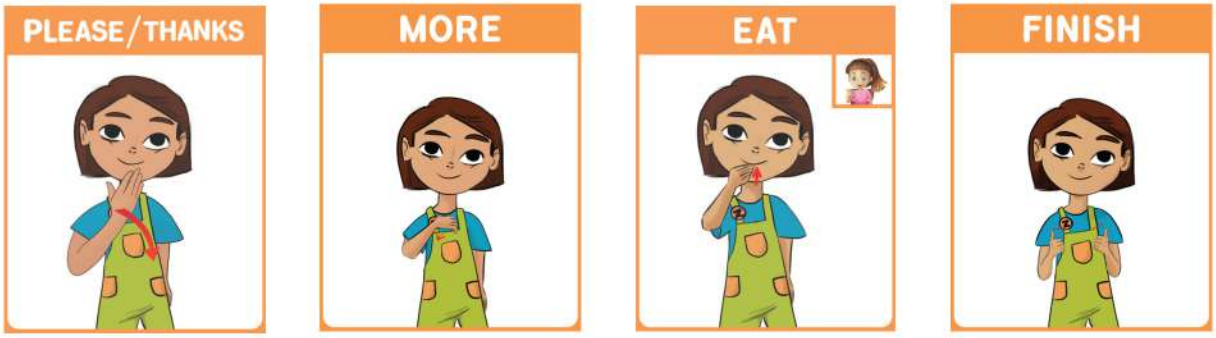
ADD SIGNING TO YOUR DAILY ROUTINES.
FINISH A GAME, SIGN "FINISH"
HAVING SOME FOOD, SIGN "EAT"
GIVING SOMETHING, SIGN "THANK YOU"

03

STEP THREE

SPEAK AND SIGN AT THE SAME TIME.
SIGNING IS A TOOL TO SUPPORT SPOKEN LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT, SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO DO BOTH.

HERE ARE MY TOP 4 STARTER SIGNS!



PRINTABLE POSTER ON LAST PAGE!



JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

There is a growing number of centres turning to key word signing to support children better, have calmer rooms, and improve language and literacy outcomes. Are you ready to try this oh-so-simple teaching strategy?

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT KWS WITH BABY SIGN

PLEASE / THANKS



MORE



EAT





FINISH

