

Family literacy is more than learning new words or reading books together- it's also communication. A great way to communicate is through sign language. Research shows that teaching your child to sign helps language development. Here are a few signs to get your family started.

## What do you do?

1. While making or reading signs, say the word out loud.
2. Repeat the sign whenever you say the word.
3. When your child uses a sign, say the word out loud and sign it back to your child.

## Baby



1. Cross your hands, touching each elbow, with the fingers from the opposite hand (like you are cradling a baby).



2. Move your arms from side to side (like you are rocking a baby).

## Milk



1. Place your hand in front of your body with the palm facing you.



2. Squeeze your hand into a fist, relax and squeeze again (like milking a cow).

## Cat



1. Pinch your thumb and index finger together by each cheek, keeping the rest of your fingers straight out.



2. As you pinch your fingers together move them away from your face (like stroking the whiskers of a cat).

# Signing for Family

## School



1. Place one hand over the other, palms facing each other with your fingers bent back.



2. Clap your palms together three times.

## Sister



1. Make both hands into an "L" with your thumb and index finger stretched out.
2. Hold your left hand down by your chest.



3. Touch your right thumb under your jaw.
4. Bring your right hand down to your left hand.

## Brother



1. Brother has the same hand positions as Sister.
2. Start with your "L" shape to your forehead instead of your thumb under your jaw.

### Taking it Further

Go online and learn how to sign the alphabet or your name.