



Not all children with hearing loss need to learn sign, but if you choose that path, it can seem overwhelming. American Sign Language, Signed English, Total Communication - all the terms for manual languages can be confusing to decipher. **Here is your crash course!**

I SAW THE SIGN



BUT I'M CONFUSED!

American Sign Language or "ASL" is a completely separate language than English. It is a voice-off communication mode with a different grammatical structure. For example, to ask someone's name in ASL, you would sign: "your" + "name" + "what"? Due to the grammatical structure, it does not typically thebest approach to teach reading and writing skills.

Signed English is the use of ASL signs in English word order. Additional vocabulary is added to represent all parts of a sentence, including articles such as "the", "is", or "are". Initialized signs may be introduced to make a connection to the spelling of the word (ex: "car").



Total Communication (TC) uses various forms of communication including formal signs, natural gestures, fingerspelling, body language, listening, lipreading and speech. This may look different for each child.

I CAN ONLY FIND ASL CLASSES! SHOULD I TAKE THEM? WILL IT BE HELPFUL?

ASL classes are often offered locally. It can be a good way to learn vocabulary that can still be applied to a Signed English or TC approach. If you would like specific Signed English instruction, a Family Training service can be added to your IFSP. Talk to you teacher or therapist to find out more.

What method does the SSB Nursery use?
In the SSB Program, we believe there is no one size fits all. TC is the approach used in our signing Nursery classrooms. Teachers speak and sign simultaneously while working to capitalize on audition and spoken language in a way that is appropriate for each family.

QUESTIONS? DISCUSS WITH YOUR PRACTITIONER TO DETERMINE WHAT MIGHT BE BEST FOR YOUR CHILD & FAMILY!