Music, Movement, Signing and More for Children Ages 0-5



TEACHER GUIDE

Vol. 1: It's Baby Signing Time



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Getting Started

How to Start Signing in Your Classroom

Early childhood educators love signing because, in addition to being highly beneficial for children, it is simple, fun, and easy. To get started, read the tips below. Then watch the Vol. 1 DVD to learn the signs. For a quick refresher, you can refer to the Sign Guide in the back of this book.

How to teach a sign

- Make eye contact whenever possible.
- Use the sign and say the word at the same time.
- **Repeat!** Look for natural opportunities to use the sign throughout the day. The more often children see a sign, the faster they will learn it.

How to start signing with infants and toddlers

- Start with a few signs. MILK, MORE, and ALL DONE are great starter signs. Once you get
 into the habit of using those signs, add a few new signs or combine signs for sentences
 like, "Do you want MORE MILK?"
- Look for understanding. Babies will recognize your signs before they can sign back to
 you. They may smile, kick their feet, or look in the direction of the object you are signing
 about to show you they understand.
- Wait for it! Babies 6-9 months of age may take three months or more to make their first sign. Older babies and toddlers may sign back sooner, depending on how many times they've seen the sign.
- Praise any attempt to sign even if it isn't perfect. Physical coordination will improve
 with time. For now, just show children how happy you are that they are trying to
 communicate with you!

Overview of Units

Organization

You will find the following components in each unit (unless otherwise noted):

1. Featured Signs

Here you will find a photo of each sign presented in the unit. These images are meant to be quick reminders of how to make the signs. If you don't know the signs yet, the best way to learn them is to watch the Vol. 1 DVD. View the DVD chapter that corresponds to the unit (chapter numbers and unit numbers are the same), or look up individual signs in the Sign Review section of the DVD. If you've learned the signs already, but need a quick refresher, refer to the Sign Guide found at the end of this book.

2. Introduction Activity

This fun activity helps you introduce each sign in the unit using real-life objects whenever possible to support understanding.

3. Practice Activities

These multi-sensory activities have been grouped into three categories, each supporting a specific learning modality:

HEAR IT! (songs and poems for auditory learners)

SEE IT! (books and videos for visual learners)

DO IT! (games and activities for kinesthetic learners)

As you create your lesson plans, choose at least one activity from each category to ensure that you are addressing the learning styles of all the children in your group.

4. Printable Resources

Parent Letter

Song Lyrics

Activity Pages (Unit 6 only)

Coloring Pages

Printable Flash Cards

Certificate

Resources

The activities in this guide utilize the following resources:

Baby Signing Time Vol. 1 DVD

The DVD chapter numbers correspond to the unit numbers in this guide. Each chapter shows Rachel singing a song and using the signs featured in that unit. Watch the chapters to learn the signs you'll be using in the unit activities.

• Baby Signing Time Vol. 1 CD

The CD track numbers correspond to the unit numbers in this guide. The CD also includes singalong versions of the songs, which are ideal for classroom use and performances for parents.

Vol. 1 Resources CD

The Parent Letters, Song Lyrics, Printable Flash Cards, Coloring Pages, and Certificates on this CD make it easy for you to involve parents. Each document is available in color or black-and-white. MP3 files for the classroom versions of the Theme Song are also included on this disc.

• Vol. 1 Sign Reference Poster

The poster features 27 signs presented in this volume. Hang it on your classroom wall for a handy reference for teachers and parents to use. Signs are grouped thematically for your convenience.





Units

Themes and Signs by Unit



1. Theme Song

Signs for the classroom versions of the Baby Signing Time Theme Song BABY, SIGNING, TIME, ALL DONE



2. Eat & Drink

Signs for mealtime - EAT, DRINK, CRACKER, WATER, CEREAL, MILK, BANANA, JUICE, ALL DONE



3. The Pets I Love

Signs for pets and animals - BIRD, FISH, CAT, DOG, HORSE, FROG



4. More, More, More

Combining signs to make simple phrases - MORE, ALL DONE, BIRD, MILK



5. Mom Has a Mom

Signs for family members - MOM, DAD, GRANDMA, GRANDPA



6. Diaper Dance

Signs for potty time - DIAPER, POTTY, STOP, ALL DONE



7. A Hard Day

Signs for owies - HURT, WHERE

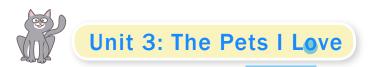


Unit 3: The Pets I Love

Signs for pets and animals

To learn these signs, watch the Vol. 1 DVD. Signs are demonstrated in Chapter 3 and in the Sign Review section. For a quick refresher, see the Sign Guide at the end of this book.





Introduction Activity



Purpose:

This activity introduces the signs for BIRD, FISH, CAT, DOG, HORSE, and FROG and helps children learn about the characteristics of these animals.

Materials:

Plush or toy animals:

- bird
- fish
- cat
- dog
- horse
- frog

Procedure:

- 1. Sing Part 1 of the Theme Song see Unit 1.
- 2. Show an animal, teach the sign, and talk with the children about the characteristic of the animal see Creative Talk suggestions below and on the next page.
- **3.** Continue until you have taught all six signs.
- 4. Review the signs for this unit: BIRD, CAT, DOG, FISH, HORSE, and FROG.
- **5.** Sing Part 2 of the Theme Song see Unit 1.

Creative Talk:

CAT: What's this? Yes, a cat. What sound does a cat make? That's right, it meows. Can you meow? Have you seen a cat? Do you have a cat? Cats have whiskers by their noses. Here's the sign for CAT. We make whiskers by our noses to sign CAT. Let's make the sign together!

BIRD: What's this? Yes, it's a bird. What sound does a bird make? How do birds get around – do they walk or fly? Do they have arms or wings? Do they use their wings to fly? Let's

pretend to be a bird. Stretch your wings out wide! Do birds have a mouth? Yes! What's it called? A beak! Beaks open and close, just like our mouths. Can you make a bird beak with your fingers? Let's put it next to our mouths. This is the sign for BIRD!

DOG: What's this? Yes, it's a dog. What sound does a dog make? Do you have a dog at home? Some dogs are big and some are small. Is your dog big or small? When you want a dog to come to you, how do you call it? Yes, you can pat your leg or pat your leg and snap your finger like this. That's the sign for DOG!

FROG: What's this? Yes, it's a frog. What sound does a frog make? Where do frogs live? Have you ever touched a frog? What does it feel like? How do frogs get around? Do they fly? Do they walk? Do they jump? You're right, they do jump. When a frog jumps, his legs go out like this (flick your fingers). This is the sign for FROG. When we make this sign, our fingers go out, just like jumping frog legs! Can you do that with me?

HORSE: What's this? Yes, it's a horse. What sound does a horse make? Where do horses live? What colors are horses? Do horses fly? Do they jump? Do they walk? How about run? Horses have big, pointy ears. Let's make some horse ears with our fingers. This is the sign for HORSE!

GOOD TO KNOW!

To make the signs for puppy, kitten, or colt, sign BABY + the name of the animal:
BABY DOG, BABY CAT and BABY HORSE!

Practice Activities

HEAR IT! Sign along to these songs and poems.

Song: "The Pets I Love"

Baby Signing Time Vol. 1 CD, Track 3 or Track 11 (sing-along version)

These are the pets I love
These are the pets I love
BIRD, BIRD, BIRD, BIRD
Tweet tweet tweet tweet!

These are the pets I love
These are the pets I love
FISH, FISH, FISH, FISH
Swim swim swim bloop!

These are the pets I love
These are the pets I love
CAT, CAT, CAT, CAT
Meow meow meow meow!

These are the pets I love These are the pets I love DOG, DOG, DOG, DOG Ruff ruff ruff ruff! These are the pets I love
These are the pets I love
HORSE, HORSE, HORSE, HORSE
Neigh neigh neigh neigh!

These are the pets I love
These are the pets I love
FROG, FROG, FROG, FROG
Ribbit ribbit ribbit croak!

These are the pets I love
These are the pets I love
BIRD, BIRD, BIRD, BIRD
FISH, FISH, FISH
CAT, CAT, CAT
DOG, DOG, DOG
HORSE, HORSE, HORSE
FROG, FROG, FROG, FROG

These are the pets I love!

all

Poem: "Let's Pretend"

all

Let's pretend to be a BIRD
It's so much fun to do
We'll fly around above the ground
and tweet just like one, too.

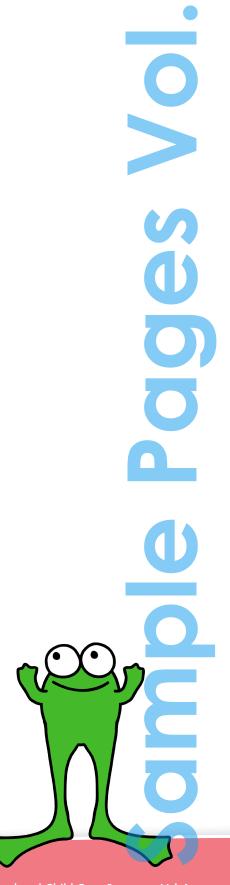
Let's pretend to be a CAT
It's so much fun to do
We'll prowl around all over the ground
and meow just like one, too.

Let's pretend to be a DOG
It's so much fun to do
We'll run around all over the ground
and bark just like one, too.

Let's pretend to be a FISH
It's so much fun to do
We'll swim around without a sound
and swim just like one, too.

Let's pretend to be a FROG It's so much fun to do We'll hop around all over the ground and ribbit just like one, too.

Let's pretend to be a HORSE It's so much fun to do We'll gallop around all over town and neigh just like one, too.





Unit 3: The Pets I Love

Song: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

all

Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o
And on this farm he had a DOG, e-i-e-i-o
With a bark, bark here and a bark, bark there
Here a bark, there a bark, everywhere a bark, bark
Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o

Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o
And on this farm he had a CAT, e-i-e-i-o
With a meow, meow here and a meow, meow there
Here a meow, there a meow, everywhere a meow, meow
Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o

Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o
And on this farm he had a BIRD, e-i-e-i-o
With a chirp, chirp here and a chirp, chirp there
Here a chirp, there a chirp, everywhere a chirp, chirp
Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o

Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o
And on this farm he had a HORSE, e-i-e-i-o
With a neigh, neigh here and a neigh, neigh there
Here a neigh, there a neigh, everywhere a neigh, neigh
Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o

More Verses: FROG (ribbit), FISH (lip smack)

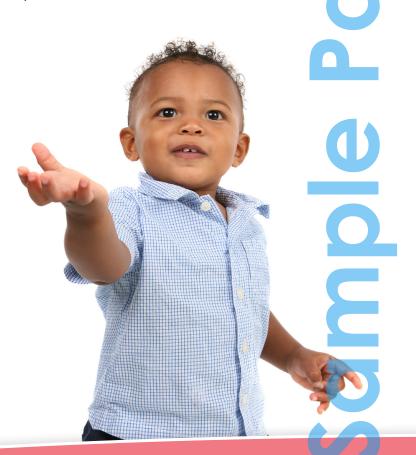
SEE IT! Sign along to these books and videos.

Videos:

- Baby Signing Time Vol. 1 DVD, Chapter 3 "The Pets I Love"
- Signing Time Series 1, Vol. 7 DVD "Leah's Farm"

Books:

- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.
- Doggies by Sandra Boynton
- Going to Sleep on the Farm by Wendy Cheyette Lewison
- Pretend You're a Cat by Jean Marzolo
- Pigeon Wants a Puppy by Mo Willems
- My First Signs: Signing Time Board Book 1
- Farm Friends Guess Who by Jolie Shepherd



Flashcard Game: Matching

0-2

Purpose:

This activity helps children practice pet signs in a fun way. It also helps them develop visual matching skills.

Materials:

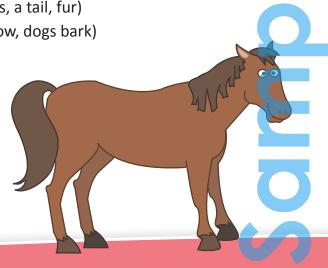
From the Resources CD, print two sets of the Printable Flash Cards for this unit - illustration side only. (Don't print the sides with the photos of Rachel signing.)

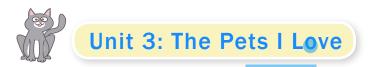
Procedure:

- 1. Review the signs for BIRD, FISH, CAT, DOG, HORSE, and FROG.
- 2. Place the twelve cards on the floor or table, facing up.
- 3. Choose a card at random. Say the name of the animal and make the sign.
- 4. Ask a child in the group to find the matching animal card offer help if needed.
- 5. After the card is found, give the child the matching card that is in your hand.
- 6. Choose another card and repeat the process until all the cards have been chosen.
- 7. Let the children play with the cards and talk to them about the animals see Creative Talk suggestions below.

Creative Talk:

- Are the two cards in your hands the same or different?
- How are DOGS and CATS the same? (four legs, a tail, fur)
- How are DOGS and CATS different? (cats meow, dogs bark)
- Do you have a pet at home?





Animal Sounds



Purpose:

This activity helps children learn more about animals through sound, movement, and signing.

Materials:

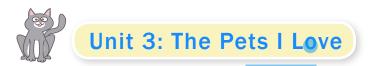
None

Procedure:

- 1. Review the signs for BIRD, FISH, CAT, DOG, HORSE, and FROG.
- 2. Choose a child to be the leader.
- 3. Whisper the name of an animal to the leader and ask her to behave like that animal using sounds and movement.
- 4. Tell the other children to guess the animal by making a sign.
- 5. Once they've guessed it, let the rest of the children take turns being the leader.
- 6. Make the sign for BIRD, FISH, CAT, DOG, HORSE, and FROG. As you do, ask your students to verbally describe the movements or sounds they made when they pretended to be that animal see Creative Talk suggestions below.

Creative Talk:

- Let's sign BIRD together. What did we do when we pretended to be a BIRD? Right, we flapped our wings. What kind of sound did we make? We chirped!
- Let's sign DOG together. What did we do when we pretended to be a DOG?



Let's Color!



Purpose:

This activity helps children practice signs and shows them the printed words for the signs they have learned. Understanding that a spoken or signed word can be represented in print is an important early literacy concept.

Materials:

- Coloring Page(s) or Printable Flash Cards from this unit see Resources CD
- non-toxic crayons
- washable markers

Procedure:

- 1. Seat children at a table and review the signs for BIRD, FISH, CAT, DOG, HORSE, and FROG.
- 2. Pass out Coloring Pages or Printable Flash Cards, crayons, and/or markers.
- 3. Read the words or sentences under the pictures aloud to each child, running your finger under the words as you go.
- 4. Talk with children as they color see Creative Talk suggestions below.
- 5. Send these pages, along with Parent Letter, Song Lyrics, and other resources for this unit, home with each child see Resources CD.

Creative Talk:

- You are putting stripes on your CAT! Do you have a striped kitty at home?
- Look at all the colors you are using! Let's name some of them.
- Who are you going to give this picture to when you get home?
- Does this DOG look like your DOG at home? Let's write your DOG'S name here!

Unit 3 Printable Resources

Use the following Resource Pages (pictured on the next page) to enrich your signing activities and to help parents support their child's signing at home:

- Unit 3 Parent Letter
- Unit 3 Song Lyrics 3 pages
- Unit 3 Coloring Page: CAT
- Unit 3 Coloring Page: FROG
- Unit 3 Printable Flash Cards 4 pages
 Note: For best results, print on white card stock paper.
- Unit 3 Certificate

Print these pages from the PDF files on your Resources CD. The CD contains a color version and a black-and-white version of each document.

GOOD TO KNOW!

We recommend that you print the black-and-white versions of the Resource Pages for this unit from the PDF files on your Resources CD. Place these pages in your binder at the end of this unit. If your Resources CD is ever misplaced, you will still have a set of black-and-white copy masters.







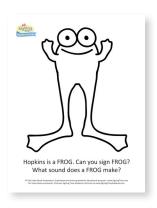


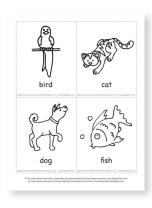




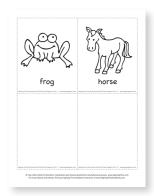


















Teacher Tips

Using Signs for Conflict Management

Infants & Toddlers



Young children feel empowered when they can communicate their desires. Use the signs for MORE and FINISHED every day and in many different contexts (play time, meal time, etc.) to help the infants and toddlers in your care learn the signs faster. The sooner they can use the signs to tell you what they want, the sooner you'll see their frustration decrease.

Preschool



Older children are engaging each other more and more in their play. Sometimes children don't understand that their rough behavior (pinching, pushing, squeezing) can hurt others. Using the sign for HURT throughout your day will help children begin to understand that others feel the same pain they do when they are hurt. In addition to being a useful tool for teaching empathy, the signs for HURT and STOP can help children learn to stand up for themselves when they are being hurt by another child. This has important implications for preventing bullying.

Using Signing Crafts to Enhance Lessons

You can download free signing crafts for:

- holidays
- seasons
- birthdays

and other special occasions at www.SigningTime.com/resources.

Sign Guide



ALL DONE

Twist your hands back and forth, like you're brushing everything away.
This is also the sign for FINISHED.



CAT

Close your pointer finger and thumb together as you brush them away from your cheek a few times. It's like you're showing a cat's whisker!



BABY

Pretend that you're cradling and rocking a baby.



CEREAL

Wiggle your bent pointer finger across your chin.



TIME

Tap your wrist as if pointing to your watch.



WATER

Make a W with three fingers and tap it on your chin a couple of times.

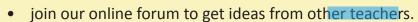






GOOD TO KNOW!

Visit www.SigningTime.com to:



- download free signing crafts and holiday activities.
- get Baby Signing Time and Signing Time board books

Visit www.SigningTimeAcademy.com to:

- find your local Signing Time Academy Instructor.
- receive a free staff orientation for this program.
- get more Signing Time resources for your center.