



DEAF
CHILDREN
AUSTRALIA

**LEARNING TO
FINGERSPELL
IN AUSLAN**

**BLUE
PRINT**

Deaf
Children
Australia.

Learning Auslan at a young age helps deaf and hard of hearing kids build vital life skills. You can start with simple activities like learning the Auslan alphabet.

Auslan, or Australian Sign Language, is a great way for deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children to communicate. Learning Auslan helps DHH kids to express themselves, connect with others, and participate in their families and communities from an early age.

Why start early with Auslan?

Young children's brains are primed to absorb information. By introducing Auslan at this stage, kids can learn quickly and maintain these skills long into adulthood.

In childhood, learning Auslan helps kids express their thoughts, feelings, and needs more easily. In turn, this helps them to build social skills and self-confidence.

What's more, research shows that early exposure to sign language promotes cognitive (thinking) and linguistic (language) development. This can help your child have better outcomes as they grow.

Getting started with Auslan at home

The thought of learning a whole new language can be daunting. But you don't have to rush or learn everything right away. Why not start with some basics that you would be teaching your child anyway, such as the alphabet?

You might like to teach them the signs along with each letter of the alphabet. Spelling out words using the signs for each Auslan letter is known as fingerspelling.

Our resource hub has a downloadable poster that shows you how to fingerspell the alphabet in Auslan. You might like to print it and pop it on the fridge or a wall where you can see it easily to remind you to practise

Quick tips for teaching kids to count in Auslan

Parents play a vital role in helping their kids to learn anything – including Auslan. You can support this learning process by:

using Auslan in everyday life and social interactions to create opportunities for practice and improvement.

encouraging your child's efforts and cheering them on.

engaging toddlers using sign language classes, books, and online resources tailored to their developmental stage.

working with professionals, such as speech therapists and deaf education specialists, to develop individualised learning plans for your child.



For further information about Deaf Children Australia
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Deaf Children Australia uses the term 'deaf' to refer to all degrees and types of hearing loss.
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