

INCLUSIVITY

> LEARNING TO
FINGERSPELL
IN AUSLAN

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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.

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 DHH students have better outcomes as they grow, both academically and socially.

GETTING STARTED WITH AUSLAN IN THE CLASSROOM

Teaching Auslan doesn't have to be overwhelming. Start with simple and foundational aspects of the language, like the Auslan alphabet. Spelling out words using the signs for each Auslan letter is known as fingerspelling.

This is a fun and interactive way for DHH students to become familiar with the language and feel more confident communicating.

To make this a classroom-wide effort, consider incorporating visual resources like posters or flashcards that display the Auslan alphabet.

These can be posted around the classroom for easy reference, helping students practice regularly and reinforce their learning.

QUICK TIPS FOR TEACHING KIDS TO COUNT IN AUSLAN

Classroom staff and classmates play a vital role in helping kids to learn anything - including Auslan. You can support this learning process by:

Incorporating Auslan into daily interactions. Encourage all students, not just DHH students, to use Auslan during everyday classroom activities. Teaching simple signs for "please," "thank you," and "sorry" helps create an inclusive environment for all students.

Celebrate the progress of DHH students learning Auslan. Positive reinforcement and acknowledgment of their efforts can boost their confidence and motivation.

Utilise videos, and classroom materials designed to teach Auslan to children at different developmental stages. These resources can provide a fun, engaging way for students to learn at their own pace.

Collaborating with professionals, such as deaf education specialists to create individualised learning plans for students. These specialists can help tailor strategies that best suit the needs of each student, ensuring they get the most out of their learning experience.

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.



For further information about
Deaf Children Australia
deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/blueprint

03 9539 5300
blueprint@deafchildren.org.au



BUILD ING BRIDGES

Deaf
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Deaf Children Australia uses the term 'deaf'
to refer to all degrees and types of hearing
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