

hello

Welcome to the Deaf Children Australia Auslan Spelling Bee. These three pages are a guide to running the Bee in your school or community.

The DCA Auslan Spelling Bee encourages students to learn to fingerspell using the Auslan alphabet. This will help to build communication skills for both hearing and deaf or hard of hearing children. And learning to fingerspell can be fun.

The DCA Auslan Spelling Bee may be run in heats with each class and then across the year level - with the winner from each class competing to win the Bee in their year level.

The students will be required to access, learn and practice the Auslan alphabet to be part of the competition.

DCA has developed a series of 26 posters - each showcasing an image, letter of the alphabet, sign and QR code. Each poster shows a diagram of how to sign the letter in Auslan. To establish a clear, visual and contextual pathway, and given children learn and absorb information in different ways (sight, touch, hearing), we have showcased the alphabet letter in different ways; with an image, a full word and the Auslan sign for the word.

These are downloadable from the DCA Spelling Bee web page. A poster featuring the Auslan alphabet with diagrams is included. Students will also be able to access a video (see QR code with both left and right handed versions of the Auslan alphabet) of someone signing each letter of the alphabet to imitate, learn and practice.

We recommend printing out each of the posters to exhibit in the classroom so students can learn and practice.

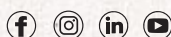
Consider running a practice session once a week for four weeks in the build-up to competition day to help the students learn the Auslan alphabet. Start with three letter words and move on to five/six letter words.

During the competition students are shown an image and each student then fingerspells the relevant word to match that image.



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how

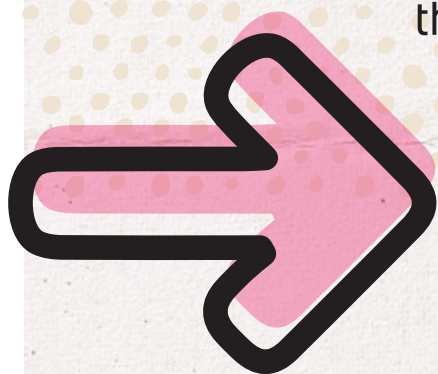


Running the Spelling Bee:

1. Contestants view a picture.
2. Each contestant then fingerspells the word for that picture using the Auslan alphabet
3. The contestant then writes that same word on a whiteboard.
4. The judge determines if the fingerspelling matches the written word and is correct spelling.
5. Contestants may ask for definitions or sample sentences to understand the words they do not know.

Recommendations for preparations:

- If running the Bee in heats from each school year-choose a Bee Co-Ordinator
- Decide on a date for the classroom Bee and announce to students and families.
[See sample letter to send to families to invite their child]
- Explain what they will need to learn and practice to be ready for the DCA Auslan Spelling Bee.



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rules

Establish the rules:

Once a student begins spelling a word, he or she cannot change their answer. For instance, if the student is spelling "Daisy" and signs, "D-I-A-S, wait, no, D-A-I-S-Y." that student is eliminated.

Students must fingerspell the word independently, without help from others.

All Bee participants and audience members should be careful not to mouth, whisper, or say the letters

The teacher determines if the word was spelled correctly.

If the correct spelling was signed, the speller remains in the game.

If the spelling was incorrect, that speller is eliminated from the game.

The teacher can state the correct spelling of the word or may choose not to.

When there are only two spellers left, if one player misspells a word, the other player must spell his/her word correctly plus one more word to be declared the winner of the Auslan Spelling Bee.

If they cannot spell his or her word correctly plus an additional word, the other student gets a new word.

Determining a winner:

To win the competition a contestant must fingerspell more words correctly than all the other contestants.

In each round, each contestant is given a different word to all the other contestants.

A contestant is only eliminated if at least one other contestant in the same round fingerspells a word correctly.

If all contestants in a particular round miss signs their given words no one is eliminated and the competition continues.

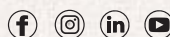
If all contestants in a particular round fingerspell their given word incorrectly, no one is eliminated and the competition continues

For feedback and comment please contact DCA Communications
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