

## Let's Connect! Early Communication and Signs for Babies

Program Overview:

- Week 1: Connecting with You!
- Today : Connecting through Signs
- Week 3: Connecting through Music
- Week 4: Connecting through Books

*Presented by Sarah Bogdanovitch, M.Sc. A, a pediatric speech-language pathologist working in Early Intervention to support communication development in children aged Birth-3.*

## Connecting through Signs and Building Understanding

Understanding develops before ability to express

How to teach signs to build understanding?

**Repeating is teaching!**

**Model consistently**

**Combine sign with spoken word**

**Choose meaningful signs for meaningful moments**

## But when will my baby *use* signs?

- When your baby is ready!
  - *Using* signs and words is more complex
    - Cognition, motor control, motivation
- You can help your baby get ready by building the communication connection
  - Respond to sounds & gestures your baby makes ... not just the one you're expecting
    - *Could be a sign approximation if motion too complex, that's ok!*
  - Take a turn – give a turn by **waiting**
  - Observe your baby's interests – what is motivating?

January 10th, 2020

## At home

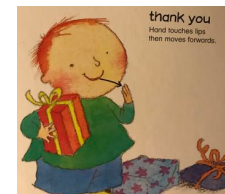
Try these 6 Functional Signs we practiced in class:

1. More
2. All done **\*\* in the book it says "finished"**
3. Milk
4. Eat
5. Potty
6. Help

*Or any signs that are meaningful for your family*

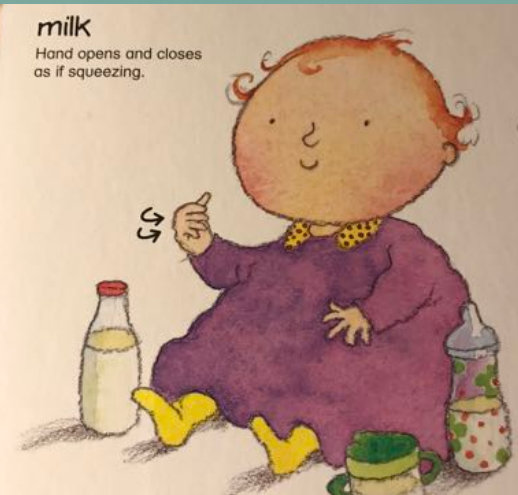
When you practice:

- Repeat, repeat, repeat
- Use gesture + word
- Model consistently to support understanding
- Have fun!



### milk

Hand opens and closes as if squeezing.



### more

Bunched hands tap together several times.



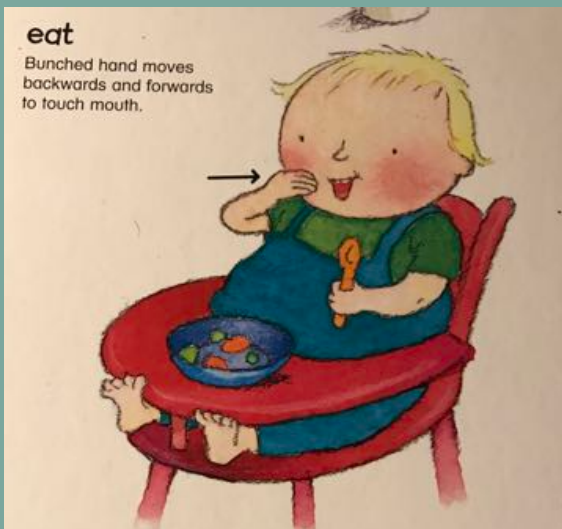
### toilet/potty

Thumb between index and middle finger.  
Hand waves sideways a few times.



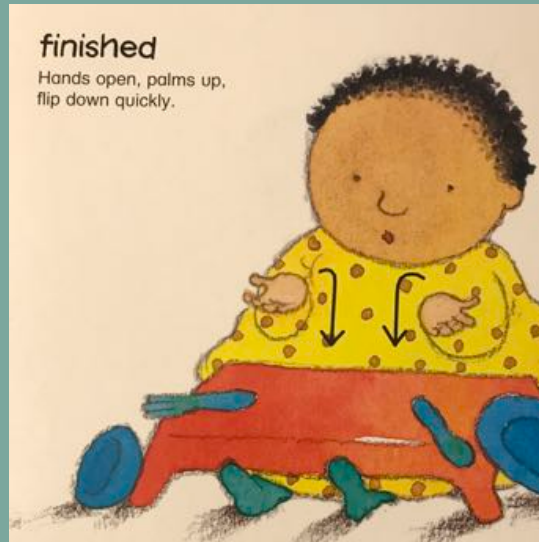
### eat

Bunched hand moves backwards and forwards to touch mouth.



### finished

Hands open, palms up, flip down quickly.



### help

Upright fist in palm of hand.  
Both hands move upwards and towards the person who needs helping.

