



## 11 Suggestions for Signing Success

1. Start by choosing 3-5 signs that are meaningful to you and your baby. Learn the signs and be comfortable with using them (recommended 1st signs are **MORE**, **MILK** and **EAT**)
2. Make the sign for the word as you say it. "You are crying! Do you want some **MILK**?"
3. Make eye contact with your baby as you sign and make the sign as close to your face as possible.
4. Until your baby starts signing back, you may want to repeat or slightly exaggerate the motion used in the sign. Babies' eyes are naturally drawn toward movement.
5. Babies learn through repetition. Invite family members, childcare providers and friends to sign with you.
6. Never pressure babies to sign or make them feel that you are disappointed when they don't sign. Just keep signing and be patient.
7. When your baby *does* sign back, affirm that you understand and congratulate your baby on her/his achievement!
8. Children will not always make the sign correctly just as with a baby learning to speak. Accept your baby's approximations but continue to model the signs and speech just as they should be produced. Eventually, most children will learn to form the signs and words correctly.
9. Include many signs in your life but don't "force feed" or aggressively teach signs. Let signing occur naturally. Resist the temptation to show-off your children or ask them to 'perform' their new talents.
10. Make signing fun! Enjoy the deep sense of connection you will feel with your baby when you begin to have meaningful two-way communications!
11. BE PATIENT! Your baby will learn to sign, but at their own pace.