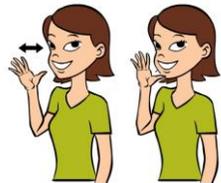
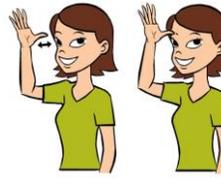


## Commonly Used ASL Signs

**Instructions for Using This Document:** This document can be used for people who already use signs to communicate, or it can be used for people who need to learn functional communication and who are physically able to make signs. You can give the document to staff so that they know what clients are saying when they sign. You can also use the document to teach staff how to teach the client new signs.

**NOTE:** The signs below are from American Sign Language (ASL). Sometimes people use signs that do not completely correspond to ASL or that are completely their own. You can add more signs to this document, and indicate in the second column whether they are ASL or client-specific, and draw/describe the sign in the last two columns.

**Teaching Instructions:** Prompt Person to do these signs when appropriate (for example, when they want the item or activity). Ask Person what they want, and wait for the sign. If they do not sign within 5 seconds, model the sign for them and ask again. If they do not do the sign, or they do it incorrectly, help them make the sign with light physical guidance. Praise them, and give them the item requested. Make sure to say the words out loud while working with Person on signs. Do not give them the item they want until they make the sign, either independently or guided by you. You can gradually reduce your verbal prompting and physical help as Person becomes better at signing.

Word	ASL or Client-specific	Sign	Instructions
Mom	ASL		Spread fingers like you're showing the number "5," then place thumb of your hand against your chin.
Dad	ASL		Lightly touch the thumb to the forehead, move the hand out an inch, then quickly touch the thumb to the forehead again.
Home	ASL		Bring fingers and thumb together and touch your cheek at the side of your mouth. Then move your hand up and touch cheek bone under and to the outside of your eye (think, home is where you eat [mouth] and sleep [eye])
Eat, Food	ASL		Bring fingers and thumb together and tap them on mouth
Drink	ASL		Hold hand like you're holding an invisible glass, then move it up toward mouth like you're taking a drink from it

More	ASL		Bring fingers and thumb together on both hands, then tap finger/thumb tips together more than once
Bathroom	ASL		Make the sign for "t" and move hand side to side
Yes	ASL		Make a fist with fingers facing front and move up and down like a nodding head  You can also teach Person to nod their head yes.
No	ASL		Hold up index and middle finger, with thumb out, then close fingers quickly onto thumb  You can also teach Person to shake their head no.
All done, Finished	ASL		Show backs of hands then quickly turn hands around, as if brushing off something
I want a break	ASL		This sign means "all done/finished," but it should also mean "I want a break."
Please	ASL		Place your flat right hand over the center of your chest. Move your hand in a clockwise motion (from the observer's point of view, use a circular motion towards your left, down, right, and back up) a few times.
Thank you	ASL		Flat hand over mouth, move hand forward and down a bit in the direction of the person, like you're blowing a kiss (but don't pucker)
Cookie	ASL		Left hand flat with palm up, bend fingers on right hand in a circle, put fingers on flat palm and twist back and forth, as if you're cutting a cookie out of dough with a circular cookie cutter
Walk	ASL		Point index and middle finger down and move back and forth, as if your fingers are walking