

# Fun Facts about ASL

- ◆ **Did you know that sign languages differ between countries and regions just as spoken languages do?**
- ◆ **About 250,000—500,000 ASL users in USA & Canada Most of them use ASL as their primary language**
- ◆ **ASL is recognized as a foreign language for credit in 35 states**
- ◆ **The ASL we know today is most likely drawn from both the local sign language and French sign language of the past**
- ◆ **Research shows signing with hearing babies enhances cognitive development**

## Who to Contact for ASL Information

Louise Hudson Fitzpatrick, ASL/Language Specialist  
LFitzpatrick@isd.k12.in.us

Diane Hazel Jones, Family Resource Coordinator  
DHJones@isd.k12.in.us

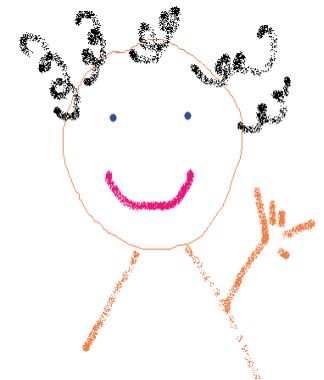
Your Child's Teacher

Outreach Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children

For Parents and Families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children:

How Can I Learn American Sign Language at Home

## Resources



## Outreach Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children

Indiana School for the Deaf  
1200 East 42nd Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205-2099  
Phone (317) 924-8416 TTY/voice  
Toll Free (800) 722-6166 TTY/voice  
www.deafhoosiers.com  
Fax (317) 920-6350  
711 Relay Indiana

## Resources Available

Opportunities in your community

Join ASL classes with your family and friends

Attend social and sporting events with Deaf and hearing adults and other parents of Deaf children

Contact DHHS (Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services) for ASL classes offered throughout the state: [IN.gov/fssa/dhhs](http://IN.gov/fssa/dhhs)

Contact Diane Jones, Family Resource Coordinator, at [DHJones@isd.k12.in.us](mailto:DHJones@isd.k12.in.us) for ASL classes at ISD



Parents and Families,  
When you are first time ASL learners or curious about the language, check out these websites:

**Handspeak.com**  
*Dictionary*

**Dawnsign.com**  
*Wonderful books*

**ASLRose.com**  
*Bilingual/Bicultural materials*

**ASLingo.com**  
*Unique Educational Games*

**DeafPlanet.com**  
*Fun activities*

**SayItInSign.com**  
*ASL Flash Cards*

**SignsforIntelligence.com**  
*Sign videos*

**Sign2Me.com**  
*Sign videos*

**Signing Times**  
*Check your local TV listings*

## Tips For Practice Signing in the Home

During meals  
During playtime  
During storytelling  
Sharing books using ASL  
Doing art activities  
Playing children's games  
Watching ASL videos

## Benefits of Signing with Children

Increases brain functioning  
Increases visual right brain usage  
Increases cognitive second language left brain usage  
Creates higher IQ levels in children  
Enhances fine motor coordination  
Learning a natural language makes additional language learning easier  
Raises communication awareness and abilities  
Enhances children's vocabulary  
Babies can communicate their wants and needs  
Reduces frustration and enhances bond between child and parent/caregiver  
Enhances children's confidence and self-esteem  
Enhances reading skills

*If your child wears a Cochlear Implant, signing still benefits.*

