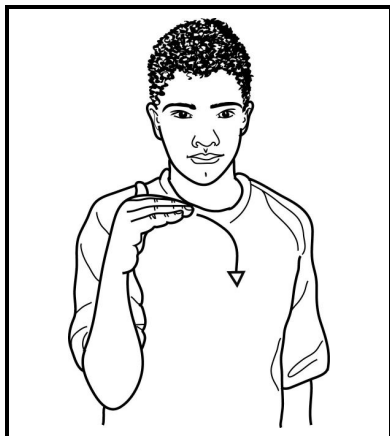




Good communication begins at home

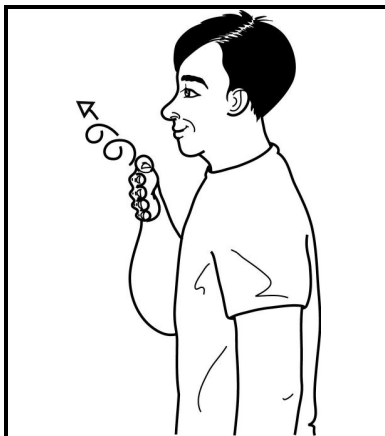
Signalong supports the National Year of Communication and is offering free sheets of signs each month, relevant to the monthly theme. Communication is not a "special" subject to be learned. It's the key to taking part in everyday life, and everyday activities give opportunities keep the interest of children who have difficulties. Learning anything should be fun – that applies to language and communication as well

HOME



Working bent hand (palm in, pointing up) bends inwards from wrist while moving in a short way, finishing palm down, pointing in.

FUN



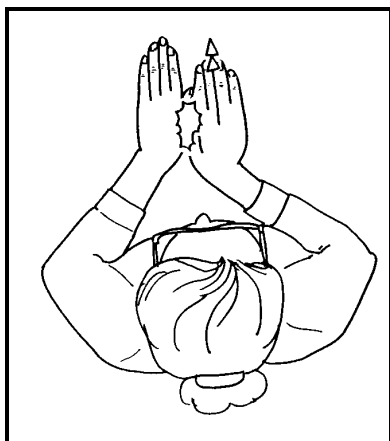
Working flat hand (palm back, pointing in) in front of neck, moves forward/up in forward circles.

COOK CAKES



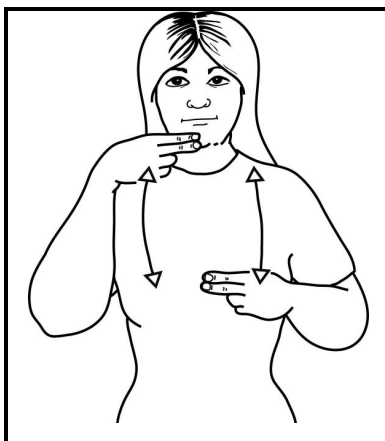
Supporting arm bent as though holding mixing bowl on hip; working fist moves in outward circle to mime stirring cake mix.

PRACTICE



Flat hands (palms down, pointing forward); working hand slightly behind brushes forwards against supporting index twice.

DINNER



"N" hands (palms back, pointing in) move alternately to mouth.

GOOD



Working thumb hand (palm back, pointing in) held up in front of body. Directional sign.

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Communication skills for children and adults with
speech, language and communication needs

Signing resources / Visual communication resources / Training / Advice



Good communication begins at home

Communication is the glue which holds human relationships together. We can't do anything with other people without communicating in some way. In order to communicate you need to have concepts in your mind, and these are developed through experience. Learning is helped by a rich and active home life; working and playing together, experiencing new things together, enjoying life together, all help to build communication skills. For children who have difficulty with words, other ways of communicating are needed, and signing is one of the quickest and most convenient of these. To lead a full life, you need a broad vocabulary. Signalong has the largest illustrated sign vocabulary in Britain, adapted from British Sign Language for the needs and abilities of children with speech, language and communication needs.

Signalong is made accessible by its approach to how the signs are formed, analysing them for handshape, orientation, placement and movement, supporting the descriptions with clear line drawings. This method enables parents and practitioners to produce accurate signs relevant to their situation, taken from the largest range in the UK of illustrated signs taken from British Sign Language.

The Signalong Group is a charity (no 1039788) which provides resources, training and free advice, and readily works with others in the field to promote communication skills for children and adults with speech, language and communication needs.

Hello, the 2011 national year of communication, is a campaign to increase understanding of how important it is for children and young people to develop good communication skills. In the 21st century, the ability to communicate - to say what you want to say and to understand what other people are saying - is fundamental. For more information about **Hello**, please go to www.hello.org.uk.

The campaign is being run by the Communication Trust, an umbrella charity which brings together voluntary sector organisations concerned with children's speech, language and communication needs. The purpose of the Trust is to raise awareness of the importance of speech, language and communication across the children's workforce and enable practitioners to access the best training and expertise to support all children's communication needs. Signalong has been part of the Communication Trust since 2007. For more information about the Trust, please go to www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk.