

## Worth Knowing!

"I was amazed at how quickly they picked it up," says Rachel, with Leah and Lucy.



# Sign language can help hearing kids, too!

When Rachel Coleman taught her deaf daughter to sign, she had no idea she'd reach her other daughter—and hundreds of other kids

When Rachel Coleman of Salt Lake City learned her 14-month-old daughter Leah was deaf, she quit her musical career to learn American Sign Language and then began teaching Leah. By age three, Leah's sign language vocabulary surpassed the speaking vocabulary of her hearing playmates.

Then Rachel decided to teach Leah's friends to sign, too. Soon, their parents were calling Rachel to thank her, saying that sign language had helped their children master other word skills.

That gave Rachel an idea: She began creating videos that would make sign language fun for anyone.

Four-year-old Leah starred in the videos and Rachel edited them, often with her two-year-old daughter, Lucy, at her side. Lucy had been born with cerebral palsy and doctors said there was "zero" chance she'd ever communicate.

But one day, Lucy sudden-

ly signed the word "cookie!" "Aaron!" Rachel called to her husband. "Lucy's learning sign language from the tapes!" Within a few months, Lucy learned to sign and say her name and her ABCs!

### How did this happen?

"It sounds like magic," says speech professor Marilyn Daniels, Ph.D., author of *Dancing With Words: Signing for Hearing Children's Literacy*. "But research shows that sign language can help kids—even those with learning disabilities—increase their learning ability. It also improves motor skills and brain activity."

Rachel, who has since released three "Signing Time" videos ([www.signingtime.com](http://www.signingtime.com)), smiles as she watches Leah and Lucy signing back and forth and giggling. "Sign language gave them a precious gift—being able to communicate the love they feel for each other," she says.

—Steve Baal

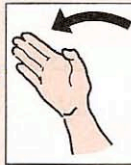
### Did you know?

Even a newborn can start learning to sign, and signing babies have IQs 10 to 12 points higher than non-signing babies.

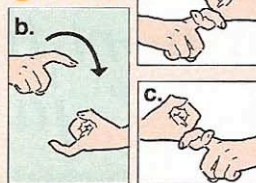
## How knowing this helps you

### 10 basic signs everyone should know

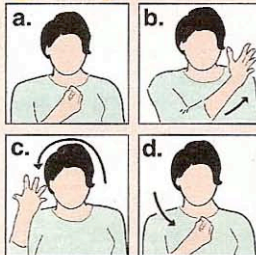
**1 Hello or goodbye:** A simple wave



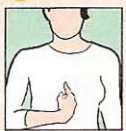
**2 Friend:**



**3 Pretty:**



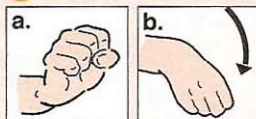
**4 Me:**



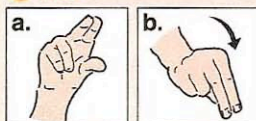
**5 You:**



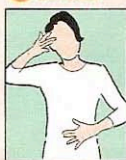
**6 Yes:**



**7 No:**



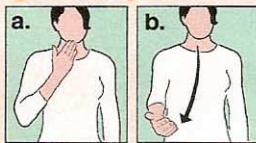
**8 Sick:**



**9 I love you:**



**10 Thank you:**



## It Happened This Week!



**in 1998**

Fifteen-year-old **Tara Lipinski** won the gold for Olympic women's figure skating, making her the youngest woman ever to do so.

**in 1792**

George Washington signed the **Postal Service Act**, setting the rates for mail. It wasn't cheap: 6 cents to send a letter up to 30 miles!

**in 1867**

Johann Strauss Jr.'s "**On the Beautiful Blue Danube**"



was played in public for the first time. It would become one of the most popular waltzes ever written—and appear in Bugs Bunny cartoons!

**in 1930**

Clyde William Tombaugh **discovered the planet Pluto** at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona. Still, many modern astronomers don't consider Pluto a true planet because it's too small.

**in 1962**

John Glenn Jr. became the **first American to orbit the Earth**, aboard the *Friendship 7*. He traveled around the planet three times, at an average speed of 17,400 miles per hour.



**in 1968**

The first **U.S. telephone system to use 911** as the universal emergency services telephone number was inaugurated in Haleyville, Alabama.