

WORKING MOTHER

THE SMART GUIDE FOR A WHOLE LIFE

MOTHER OF INVENTION

GLAD SHE THOUGHT OF THAT

Show Me a Sign

Like any mom, Rachel de Azevedo Coleman wants her 6-year-old daughter, Leah, to make lots of friends. But Leah faces a special challenge: She's deaf, and Coleman has watched kids shy away from her because of communication problems. "It would be a different world for deaf children if another child could sign, 'Hi, friend, you-me play,'" says Coleman, 28, of Salt Lake City. And Coleman's determined to make that happen. With her sister, Emilie de Azevedo Brown, and a friend, Jon Pierre Francia, Coleman created *Signing Time!*, a three-part series available on video and DVD that introduces basic sign language to children and parents. The series, part of a growing trend of teaching sign language to hearing children, begins with typical baby vocab like *milk* and *mom*, then advances to more complex words and phrases like *hungry* and *thank you*. More than 75 signs are covered in the series, which stars Leah, her cousin Alex and Coleman. Producing *Signing Time!* allowed Coleman to pursue another love: singing and songwriting. She wrote and performed all of the music. Videos cost \$15 each or \$35 for all three; DVDs are \$20, or \$40 for three. To order, visit www.signingtime.com.—JG

