

## Mother's Campaign To Talk With Son Helps Put 'Signing Time' On PBS TV

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By MidWeek Staff

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Jason Elento enjoys a 'Signing Time' lesson on television while his brother Matt holds onto the family cat.

According to his mom, Jason was disappointed when the show was over — but then made the sign for “more.”

Photo from Linda Elento.

An Oahu mother who has advocated for sign-language classes for her son, has found a measure of success on the state and national level:

- 1) The Public Broadcasting System has launched a series of weekly programs on Signing Time! here in Hawaii.
- 2) The state House passed a resolution this session encouraging the state Department of Education to reach young children at home through signing instruction.

“For my child, who has Down syndrome, he’s had a hard time speaking and being understood,” explained Linda Elento. “The DOE favors the verbal method, but until he learns to talk, what do you do in the meantime?”



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Working with Jason (who is now 4 years old) on sign language for three years has produced “amazing” results, said the Kaneohe mom, who is not fluent at this point herself. “But now I know he’s learning and communicating.”

The TV program airs on the local PBS channel at 10:30 a.m. each Saturday for 13 weeks. The first episode was June 3.

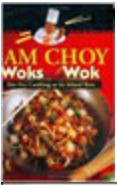
For benefits to the Signing Time method, she recommends looking at [signingtime.com](http://signingtime.com)

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