



TEACHER TIPS | CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Since sign language requires eye contact, students naturally pay closer attention. This makes sign language an effective tool for classroom management.

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The easiest way to begin using basic signs for classroom management is to get in the habit of **signing** a common word or request every time you **say** it. Consider making this a part of your classroom rules. Just as students learn to raise their hand before being called upon, using signs daily to communicate frequent requests can become second nature.

For example, sign **line up** each time you ask the students to line up. After the students grow accustomed to both hearing and seeing instructions, you need only establish eye contact and use the sign. Other helpful signs from this unit include **pay attention**, **quiet**, and **clean up**.

Signs can also be used for frequent requests made to you by students. Let them know they can ask to go to the bathroom by simply establishing eye contact and signing **bathroom**. Likewise, they can ask to get a drink of water by signing **drink** or **water please**. You may find that students prefer to discretely sign requests like these rather than make the request public. You can easily answer back with a sign such as **yes**, **no**, **wait**, or **later**.

