

Suggested Signing Activities

For 3-7
year olds



Signing Activities For Ages 3-7

Here are a variety of activities for you to try with your 3-7 year old to encourage and reinforce the use of sign language in everyday life. Submitted by Signing Time fans from all over the world, they show how easy it is to get in your "signing time" every day!

If you have any activity suggestions, please share them with us on our website: www.signingtime.com/contact/activitysubmit.html

Incorporating the Alphabet, Phonics, Letters....

(I started doing this because I got tired of just doing the alphabet over and over). My son likes for me to make each letter and their corresponding words a different color and he hands me the color that he wants me to use. Write "Aa" then sign the letter while saying the phonetic "a" sound. Next to the "Aa" write a word beginning with the letter a. Sign the word then finger spell the word. Each time you do the Alphabet you choose a different topic: People (family friends), Mammals, Amphibians or aquatic animals, vegetables, fruits etc.

After a while instead of you thinking of a word that starts with the letter, your child will begin to sign a word and if possible, they will begin to attempt to mimic the phonetic pronunciation of the word. They will also learn the classification of items and the beginnings of reading. My son now understands uncles are men and makes jokes that I am Uncle Mommy and then tells me he is a funny boy!

-Submitted by R. Lynn

Bubbles...Bubbles...and more Bubbles!!!

I love pulling out the bubbles to promote signing. To begin, I show my children the bubbles and they instantly sign 'bubbles please.' Then, after we start blowing, out comes the "more" sign. It is also the perfect opportunity for reinforcing signs like "up," "down," "many" and any object the bubbles land on (dog, flower, grass, and shoe). We often sing songs about the bubbles that we make up as we go along. We also use the signs "jump" and "catch" to see if we can jump up and catch the high bubbles. When it's time to put the bubbles away, we sadly sign "finished." This is the perfect activity for busy moms because you don't need a lot of materials. It is also a great way to gather little ones to a "circle time activity" in a preschool environment.

-Submitted by K. Stein

Signing Bingo!

BINGO cards (I make my own with Words or Pictures from our lesson)

Play like regular BINGO, but the leader signs, and the players find the matching word or picture. Whoever gets BINGO first, signs all of the words or pictures in the winning row.

-Submitted by M. Harrah

Using Household Items to Teach!

I watch the DVD's with my daughter and show her items (props you want to use) as they come up in the DVD and sign along. I think the look and excitement on her face makes it the best for me and it helps her associate the items in the DVD with things around the house.

-Submitted by L. Rodgers

Signing Time! Vocabulary Cards

Using large index cards and markers, I write the words from the Signing Time tapes on each card. We use them as flash cards and I show them to Erica (5 non-verbal with Downs) and she signs back to me what it is. We kept adding more words. She has learned to read 100 plus words and just started regular educ. kindergarten. You can imagine her teacher's surprise. I highly sing and sign your praises.....thank you so much! Erica is able to show everyone how much she really knows!

-Submitted by Colleen

Forming Sentences

You have many signs in your vocabulary now – enough to start forming sentences. Even simple sentences like:

-  More Ball
-  Share Train
-  Milk Please

What other sentences can you form?

Time to Exercise Your Memory

Concentration (or memory) cards (you can make your own)

We play concentration, but we have to sign our match before we can get our extra turn.

-Submitted by M. Harrah

Memory for Little Tikes

I line up memory cards, face up. Then, I make the sign for one of the pictures. My two year old finds the right card and hands it to me. This is a good quiet activity that we use in church.

-Submitted by J. Frost

Find a Word, What's its Sign?

Works great with picture books or magazines, but in a pinch to entertain or distract I will use billboards, doctor signage, posters (you name it, I'll use it)

We play the "I know the sign" game. We look at the first page in the book and take turns saying "I know the sign for ____." Then the next person goes and chooses something they know the sign for and they say "I know the sign for ____." We continue until we cannot name anymore signs for items on that page, and then we turn the page. It works great as a distraction in a boring doctor's office also, because you can use the posters or magazines and even include the other children and teach them signs that your children know. I've done this quite a few times!!

-Submitted by T. Costa

GO! STOP! GO!

My granddaughter and I like to play 'Go, Stop, Wait'. It is played just like "red light, green light." I line up at the end of the hallway and she signs 'Go' and I run until she signs 'Stop'. I have to stop and wait while she signs 'Wait'. Then she signs 'Go' and I run until she signs 'Stop' again and again I need to Wait. This is repeated until I reach her. At that point I am the signer and she is the runner. If the runner does not stop when the 'Stop' is signed - they must go back to the beginning. This can be played with multiple runners and in that case, the first runner reaching the signer gets to be the next signer.

-Submitted by K. Fry

Sidewalk Chalk

You will need chalk and a big sidewalk or paved area. We do this activity so I can reinforce my signing skills and he can reinforce his signing and language skills and learn family relationships, names and nicknames.



I sign who. He signs (example) Daddy. I sign Daddy then sign Ian's Daddy's name is Jim. I write on the sidewalk Daddy and next to it Jim. We do Aunts, Uncles, Friends, Grandparents and cousins.

After, I will sign "Where is Daddy's name". Ian then runs and either jumps on Daddy's name, or colors in chalk over the name.

-Submitted by R. Lynn


Invent Your Own Lyrics- The Sillier Pizza Song!

Sing the *Silly Pizza Song* from ***Everyday Signs (Vol 3)*** and substitute other food signs you know, like this:

-  *I like peaches on my pizza...or*
-  *I like eggs on my pizza...*



Watch ***My Favorite Things (Vol 6)*** to learn more signs for food, fruit, and veggies.

Or, substitute other fun signs you know, like this:

-  *I like airplanes on my pizza...or*
-  *I like flowers on my pizza...or*
-  *I DON'T like socks on my pizza...*

You can add on as many things as you'd like!

Other versions of the *Silly Pizza Song*:

-  "I like babies while their sleeping, I like sleeping babies please!
-  Put the babies in their beds; don't forget to kiss their cheek!"

'Have we beaten this song to death? I still like it ;-):

-Submitted by Mindy, mom to Lilium:

Additional Uses for the Silly Pizza Song:

"I like kisses on my baby, I like kissed babies please, put some kisses on my baby (then kiss your baby) don't forget the extra please!"

Use the silly pizza song while driving on a long trip and stating what you see along the highway. Like this:

"I like bridges on my pizza, I like silly bridges please..."

-Submitted by L. Lashway

Alphabet Flashcards

These are the things you will need to do this activity: flash cards with alphabet & pictures on them, or any book with several of various pictures.

I like to teach my boys how to recognize their alphabet using Flash Cards, and I find that while I am teaching them the alphabet one at a time, I teach them the sign for each letter of the alphabet. Sometimes, flash Cards have pictures along with the alphabet and I'd teach them the sign for the pictures as well. It has been very successful for my boys as we practice memorizing/ recognizing each letter of the alphabet by memorizing the signs as well. Sometimes we'd play a game and I'd ask them what was the sign for a particular letter of the alphabet? What about this picture? They'd have fun trying to remember the sign for it.

-Submitted by K. Lee

Adding Signing Games You Already Know

Add signing to the simple games you already know! It lets you practice your signs inside, outside, or in the car!

I spy with my little eye... sign what you see and everyone else has to point it out!

Alphabet game – look for your ABCs in the world around you. Sign each letter as you see it in print, on a sign, or an object that starts with that letter. First person to get through the alphabet wins!

ABC Race – how fast can you sign your ABCs? Can you keep up Leah on Volume 5? Race each other!

Red Light, Green Light – use your color signs, or the signs for *stop* and *go*.

Have a Silly Pizza 'Picnic': (practice food signs)





For Volume 3: Everyday Signs (with the Silly Pizza song), we spread out a picnic blanket on the floor, and took out several fake foods and proceeded to 'eat'. The kids signed for what they wanted and then pretended to eat.

I then printed off a coloring page with an empty picnic basket from crayola.com. I drew different food items in a printing program and copied & cut them out. The kids then pasted the foods onto the picture of the open picnic basket. We even made cookies and pizza and signed about it, while the portion of Volume 3 of Signing Time with all the food signs played in the background. It was successful both at home and at our playgroup.

-Submitted by T. Linton

What else are you Really Good at?

Sing *I'm Really Good* from ***My Favorite Things (Vol 6)*** and substitute other activity signs you know, like this:

-  *I'm really good at cleaning...or*
-  *I'm really good at playing...or*
-  *I'm really good at sharing...or*
-  *I'm really good at reading...*

Signing Stories

We use Sign Language to help our son Jacob (7) learn & understand more concepts along with helping him learn how to read. He loves song games & music so I taught myself how to sign the book "Monkeys Jumping on the Bed". He signs some of the words and can now say a few of the words. Sign Language also helps with his attention and is a great motivator for him. He loves the videos and has learned so much from them. Thanks for providing such a great tool for our children to use. Brenda (Mom to Jacob- ASD 7/Erika- 5) who knows all of the signs on your videos and helps her brother with them.



-Submitted by B. Borrero

Show Me A Sign

As you tell stories and read books to your child, look for words that correspond to signs you know. Say and sign the word(s) each time.

Many 'Babies First Words' -type books have pictures that correspond to the basic signs in *My First Signs (Vol 1)*. They are great for practice.

More examples:

-  Goldilocks and the Three Bears: sign *Mom, Dad, Baby, Bear, Hot, Cold, Sleep...*
-  Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? By Bill Martin: sign *brown, bear, red, bird, yellow, blue, green, frog, purple, cat, white, dog, black, fish...*

As you do this, make note of the signs you haven't yet learned from Signing Time so you can know what you need to expand your ASL vocabulary.

Silly Pizza Matching & Stacking Game

We have play food items to match the foods in the song. When the song starts you have to sign the words and be able to keep up with Rachel. For every sign you can do correctly you get to keep that food item. When the song ends you can see who has the most food items and know which words you need to practice more.

We have a variation of this game where you have a tray, which is the pizza, and you stack the play food items on top of each other to see who can make the tallest stack. We had to substitute blocks with pictures of the food for things like apples because they won't stack. You can stack them in order as they show up on the screen. At the end you have a huge stack of silly pizza just like on the show.

Sometimes one person stacks the food while the other person signs 'I want _____ on my pizza' You have to figure out what the sign is and stack the right food.

While we play these games the kids get lots of practice with signing and have lots of laughs!"

-Submitted by Jennifer Ackerson

Just Another One of Those Rainy Days: (Practice Wet/Dry)

One day when it was lightly raining, I played the portion of **Volume 3: Everyday Signs** where the kids are talking about "Wet" and "Dry". As the 'Rainy Day' song was playing, we went outside, stepped out from under the patio and signed "Wet!", then back where under the porch where it was dry, and signed "Dry!" My two year old **loved** it. He still to this day signs and says "Wet!" whenever it's raining and begs to go play outside.

-Submitted by Teresa Linton

Good Sharing! (Practice Your Magic Words)

Volume 2: Playtime Signs talks about taking turns with the "Magic Words" song. We get out one of the kids favorite toys and the two of them take turns. I tried to get them to use their signs while learning to share. This was somewhat difficult at first, but over time the kids started to enjoy the communication part enough that the sharing wasn't as difficult.

-Submitted by Teresa Linton

Look Who's Signing:

To advance his language skills and reinforce the meaning of a sign,

We take short movies (.avi) of Jake doing a sign, and play it for him. For example, film him signing *ball*, use the Signing Time DVD sign review feature to show him the sign for *ball*, then play ball with him and sign *ball* ourselves. He really likes to see himself signing and the kids in Signing Time doing the same thing.

-Submitted by L. Lashway

Take Rachel With You:

When your 10 mo. old has to spend a week in a hotel room, he can get pretty bored. I put the Signing Time Music CD on my iPod and played it for him over the cheesy FM radio in the hotel. He thought Rachel was going to come out of the radio and would not take his eyes off it.

-Submitted by L. Lashway

Got ideas, songs, games, or activities? Share them with us! Visit our website and enter your activities here: www.signingtime.com/contact/activitysubmit.html