

# AN SLP'S GUIDE TO

# ASL

American Sign Language is a complete, natural language. ASL is the third most common language in the US. It has the same properties as spoken languages, but grammar that differs from English. ASL is expressed by movements of the hands and face.

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## Parameters Of A Sign

1. hand shape
2. palm orientation
3. movement
4. expression
5. location

## Handshape

Handshapes consist of the manual alphabet and other variations of handshapes.

## Orientation

Orientation refers to which direction your palm is facing for a particular sign

## Movement

A sign can display different kinds of movement such as in a circle, up and down, forward, etc

## Location

Location is the physical place where the sign happens in relation to your body within the signer's space.

## Expression

Expression refers to one's facial expression while signing. In ASL, expression is often indicative of grammar or sentence type



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# Level of Expertise

Skill and knowledge of ASL is a speciality.

Be open with the families you are working with so together you can find the best resources.

Get to know the family and/or learn about working with interpreters.

ASL education is also available from places like Gallaudet University!

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# Working With An Interpreter

Establish what exactly the child and the SLP need from the interpreter.

Does the SLP need ASL interpreted for them?

Does the child need speech interpreted?

Are both interpretations needed?

The SLP should address the child directly.

A session should not consist of the SLP speaking to the interpreter using language such as "tell them I said...".

The SLP should speak to the child using direct eye contact and speech.

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