

sign names and instructions for signing

general terms

yes	fist shakes up and down and represents the head nodding
no	forefinger and middle finger snap close on the thumb
more	both hands (palms facing person) come together and tap together several times
eat	one hand with fingers together places food in the mouth
please	open hand circles over the heart/chest to indicate pleasure
thank you	hand moves out and forward away from chin
love/hug	hands hug something over the chest (x crossed) to indicate the concept of love
like	middle finger to thumb; move hand from chest out
all done	hands shake outward to indicate that something is over (finished)
baby	a natural gesture for indicating holding a baby
see	V handshape; hand moves to the front in a general sign to express the concept of seeing
help	one hand lifts the other hand up to represent the concept of assisting (helping)
arm	left arm up and right hand moves upward to indicate arm
other side	thumb up and hand clenched, moves from left to right as in hailing a car ride
read	one hand open palm outward and index/middle fingers move quickly left right
sing	one arm extended; other hand palm out/thumb up back and forth twice
march	both hands, fingers extended downward moving in a marching motion
clap	hands clap as in applaud
me	point to self with index finger to chest
welcome	hand brings something towards the body show that someone being invited to come forth
kiss	fingertips touch side of mouth and then cheek
happy	movement of the hand up the chest represents that a person's spirits are high
sad	outspread fingers move down in front of face to show features of face drooping
hi/hello	flat hand moves from top of forehead outward
I	sign the letter "i"
friends	index fingers both hands looped together back and forth
angry	open bent fingers in front of face rake downward as face shows displeasure

objects

ball	hands are holding onto a ball
mother	fingers of the five handshape is wiggled with the thumb by the side of the chin
father	fingers of the five handshape is wiggled with the thumb on the forehead
book	palms together, open and shut
mountain	two fists, one knocks on top of the other followed by the hands indicating the side of a mountain
doll	bent index finger placed on the nose and pulled downward
hat	pat head twice
bed	hand represents a pillow against which the head is resting
can/bottle	palm of one hand upward; other in circle as if holding a can; sit bottle in palm

necessary terms

diaper	index and middle finger together move down on both sides twice
potty	thumb stuck between index and middle finger and shaken
change	fists on top of one another and then moved above/below
wet	both hands turned upward with thumbs quickly touching other fingers
full/dirty	fingers wiggle under chin indicate food falling from one's mouth; or dirty diapers
tired	hands are placed on the chest, moved downward drooping along with the shoulders
stop	one palm up/flat; other palm sideways moves downward and hits the other
hungry	claw hand from throat moving downward as if food flowing into stomach
pacifier	thumb and index finger move to mouth twice

colors

English/Spanish	
green/verde	index and middle fingers above thumb; rest of hand closer; shake twice
red/rojo	stroke the lips two times with the tip of your index finger
yellow/amarillo	right thumb and pinkie extended while other fingers are closed; shake sideways
blue/azul	thumb tucked and other fingers straight up palm outwards; move sideways

foods

cheese	bring both hands together; rotate your right hand back and forth
milk	open/close a fist as if squeezing an object
cracker	right fist moves twice against the left elbow
cereal	the hands mimic the act of eating cereal from a bowl
ice cream	appear to be holding a cone and licking it twice
drink/juice	hand moves upward as if holding a cup and tilts back into mouth/J letter with little finger
celery	"C" sign from side is brought to the mouth
banana	peel the right index finger with the left hand
apple	fist of right hand with thumb out and rub against the cheek
water	three middle fingers are spread to form "W" and touched to under lips
eggs	both hands, index/middle fingers together, meet at tips and move downward
butter	index/middle fingers together right hand brushes middle of left hand
popcorn	index fingers on both hands move upwards quickly three times
toast	V handshape touches one side of the hand and then the other

animals

elephant	trunk of an elephant is moved in front of the face
bird	thumb and forefinger mimic the action of a bird's beak
cow	"yellow" sign to side of head and moved back and forth
bear	arms/hands cross and scratch chest
duck	index and middle finger to mouth and open/close twice
fish	movement of hand swishing mimicking fish tail
cat	fingers pulling to side of face mimic whiskers
butterfly	thumbs lock and fingers flutter to mimic the wings of a butterfly flying
rabbit	index and middle finger up and hopping in front of face or ears on both sides of face
pig	hand flaps under the chin food dripping from pig's mouth; similar to "dirty" sign
tiger	bent fingers on both hands are pulled across face
bee	index and thumb pinched together hit cheek and then brush aside the "bee"
frog	tongue is stuck out twice
monkey	sign mimics a monkey scratching itself on both side of body
dog	hand pats the side and then snaps the fingers OR tongue sticks out panting
hippo	"yellow" shape on both hands opens and closes to show big mouth
snake	index and middle fingers bent and slither forward to replicate movement
bug	hand in front of nose with index and middle sticking out and moving quickly twice
ant	left arm extended; fingers on other hand crawl down the long arm
crocodile	both arms move like the mouth of a crocodile twice
ape	both hands pound chest

for video of each sign go to Google, type "signing savvy"—signingsavvy.com; newest site with video illustrations of signs