



Using ASL can help communicate with your baby or toddler, especially when young babies and toddlers are using their body language to express their wants and needs, which is very typical at this age. Here are some basic signs you can model for your baby or toddler to help bridge the gap between using their behavior to communicate and using words. At Holly Ridge Center, we make communication easy and helpful for both parents and children. Here are some tips:

1. Start using 1-3 signs for things, foods, or objects your baby or toddler loves.
2. Before giving your child say a cracker, sign and say the word so they can see and hear it before you give it to them. We want to use all of our sensory input. Babies and toddlers learn from their senses. Give the cracker to your child and then sign and repeat it.
3. Practice this throughout the day; repetition in a natural way through play is best.
4. Keep it fun and simple.
5. When your child does imitate the sign, it may be an approximation or a partial sign. That is great! Young babies and toddlers don't have the fine motor skills to sign as adults do, which is okay. Any approximation will work; keep signing it the way they do in the video.
6. What is the purpose of using signs? To help bridge the gap between using their behavior to communicate and using words or sign language. It is common for toddlers to continue to use behavior sometimes because they are still learning!

Basic ASL Signs:

Mom

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/search/mom>

Dad

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/search/dad>

Help

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/sign/HELP/3596/1>

All done

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/sign/ALL%20DONE/5895/1>

More

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/sign/MORE/272/1>

Please

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/search/please>

Water

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/sign/WATER/769/1>

Eat

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/sign/EAT/151/1>

Cracker

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/search/cracker>

Ball

<https://www.signingsavvy.com/sign/BALL/955/1>

