SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

American Sign Language Cards for Toddlers and Beginners

Description:	Image:
American Sign Language cards for Toddlers and Beginners contain 180 cards. The cards cover topics of alphabet letters and numbers, early vocabulary, and common words and phrases. One side of the card shows the title of the sign (letter/number, word, or short phrase) with the sign, and the other side provides the title, describes the sign action, and provides reminder tips. The cards are 5" L and 3" W and are made from laminated cardstock.	 Purchasing Information

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Are deaf or hard of hearing and need early exposure to ASL.
- Have other disabilities that may make spoken communication challenging and may instead use ASL to support communication.
- Need to support identifying, labeling, and communicating their feelings through additional visual support or alternatives to spoken communication.
- Need a multi-modal means to effectively communicate feelings and emotions (e.g., pointing to pictures, ASL, speaking).
- Have adequate fine motor skills to point, pick up cards, and use their hands to imitate ASL signs.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Establish a connection between ASL and written letters, numbers, and words.
- Develop communication skills through general vocabulary enrichment.
- Develop competencies in communicating using ASL specifically.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • American Sign Language Cards for Toddlers and Beginners can be used in any environment, such as community, home, school, etc., due to their easy portability (small size and weight). **Positioning** • The American Sign Language Cards for Toddlers and Beginners are best used on a flat surface where the cards can be easily viewed. • A child can interact with the cards sitting at a table or on the floor, standing, or in a prone (Tummy Time) position. **Alternate Positioning** • The American Sign Language Cards for Toddlers and Beginners could also be used on a slant board to improve physical and/or visual access of the cards to the child. **Basic Play/Use** • Lay on a card on the table, label the sign, then speak and sign to the child the item on the card. Ask the child to imitate the sign. • Lay a card on the table and ask the child to sign the content on the card. If the child needs additional support to sign the content, provide a model demonstration of the sign and ask the child to imitate the sign. • Use cards like flashcards, showing each card separately and asking the child to sign the emotion indicated on the card.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Velcro • Duct tape **Build It Up** • Duct tape can be used to create a raised border around the edge of the game cards for easy gripping. **Stabilize It** • Hook and loop the Velcro could be used on the game cards to stabilize them, so they don't move out of place. **Simplify It** • The number of game cards and objects presented to the child one time can be limited initially and increased over time. **Contain it** • Cards can be put in a tray to keep them in a confined area. Work mats or colored painters' tape can also be used to visually define spaces where the cards can be used. **Add Sensory Cues** • Cards could be displayed on a high contrast background. • Tactile cues, such as puffy paint, could be added to the cards to increase touch identification if needed. **Communication Support** • Consider using/modeling game-related comments using a communication board if appropriate to the child's needs (does not have the manual dexterity for ASL consistently or needs additional visual cues to communicate).

Extended Play/Use	DIY Alternatives
• Lay two cards on a table face up and ask the child to find one of the specific cards and sign it. If the child is correct, they take the card, and if not, the cards are both added back into the deck. As the child gains mastery, additional cards could be included to increase the choices available to the child. **Play/Use with Others** • 2 or more children could play a flashcard game where they are asked individually to demonstrate the sign on the card while competing to get the most cards correct.	• Create your own cards using card stock and hand-drawn pictures or stickers.

Additional Resources:

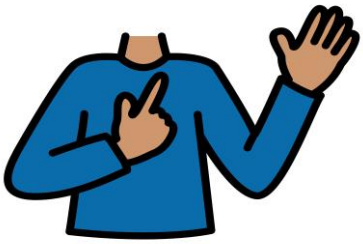
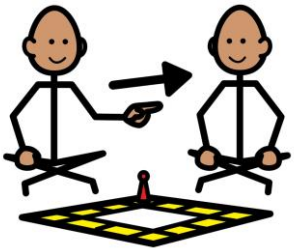
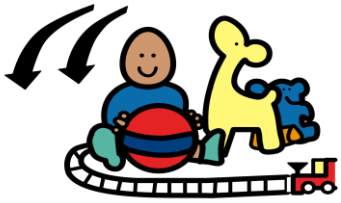
- ASL Kids Sign Language for Kids - ASL Kids offers free video lessons, tips on getting started and a free ASL dictionary app.
- ASL Stories Directory - This ASL Stories Directory makes it easy to find hundreds of free videos of ASL retellings of favorite children's books. Research shows that reading and signing stories together helps promote essential literacy skills for ALL children: deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing. Use the ASL Stories Directory to quickly find stories by age or by the book's title.
- Fun American Sign Language Games to Help You Learn ASL - provides a list of easy games to play with common classroom materials. There is also a list of other games for purchase.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- LL: Language and Communication. Develops and expands understanding of vocabulary and concepts (1b.).
- LL: Print Awareness. Develops knowledge of the alphabet (3b.).
- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

In addition to the 180 letters, numbers, and vocabulary words represented on the flashcards, consider the following:

My turn 	Your turn 	Try again 
I win 	You win 	Play again 
This is fun 		

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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