

JUMPSTART YOUR ASL

DEAF BILINGUAL COALITION

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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



ASL IS:

1.A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED LANGUAGE.

1.A NATURALLY ACQUIRED LANGUAGE.

2.THE DOMINANT LANGUAGE OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY IN THE U.S. AND CANADA.

2.THE THIRD MOST USED LANGUAGE IN THE U.S.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ASL AND SIGNED SYSTEMS:

ASL

- IS A NATURAL LANGUAGE
- CONTAINS A LINGUISTIC CODE AS ALL LANGUAGES DO.
- THREE DIMENSIONAL
- GROWS AND CHANGES LIKE ALL LIVING LANGUAGES.
- IS USED BY A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE.

SIGNED SYSTEMS

- ARE NOT A NATURAL LANGUAGE
- BORROWS ASL SIGNS, INITIALIZES THEM, ADDS NON-ASL ENDINGS TO THEM, AND PUTS THEM IN ENGLISH WORD ORDER
- ARE SYSTEMS BASED ON SPOKEN ENGLISH.
- LINEAR FOR THE MOST PART
- MOSTLY USED IN MAINSTREAM DEAF EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

COMPONENTS OF ASL:



1. HANDSHAPES

2. PALM
ORIENTATION

3. MOVEMENTS OF HANDS, ARMS,
AND BODY

4. LOCATION TO BODY

5. FACIAL EXPRESSION

6. WORD ORDER



LET'S PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

ASL to English: The red chair is in the corner.

■ **NOUN**

CHAIR

(ADD MORE: YOU, BALL)

■ **ADJECTIVES**

RED

(ADD MORE: STRIPPED,
PLAID, POLKA DOTTED)

■ **PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES**

IN THE CORNER

(ADD MORE: NEAR THE
WINDOW)

■ **VERB or LINKING VERB**

IS

(ADD MORE: SIT, GO GET)



TIPS FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS TO KNOW:

**DEAF
CHILDREN
CAN BE
BILINGUAL IF
YOU GIVE
THEM THE
TOOLS OF
LANGUAGE,
BOTH ASL
AND ENGLISH**

1. **ASL DOES NOT CLUTTER THE MIND OR INHIBIT SPEECH AND LISTENING. THERE IS NO RESEARCH TO BACK THIS UP.**
2. **ALL CHILDREN DEAF AND HEARING FROM HEARING FAMILIES CAN LEARN TO SIGN IF FAMILIES ARE DEDICATED AND SUPPORTED.**

ASL RESOURCES

- Signs for Intelligence:
www.signsforintelligence.com
- Everyday ASL:
www.everydayasl.com
- Signing Time:
www.signingtime.com
- Baby Signs: www.babysigns.com
- Sign 2 Me: www.sign2me.com
- Clerc Children:
clercschildren.com
- ASL University: www.lifeprint.com
- ASL Pro: www.aslpro.com
- Babies and Sign Language:
www.babiesandsignlanguage.com
- Dawn Sign Press:
www.dawnsignpress.com
- Harris Communications:
www.harriscomm.com