I am Deaf

let's Talk

25 Signs to Learn for the Weekend

deaf.org.nz

Deaf
AOTEAROA
TĀNGATA TURI

HELLO,

I’m Karishma

I love my shopping and socialising! I also love to read a good book. I have big dreams for my life, just like hearing people do. One of those dreams is to be an Early Childhood Education Teacher for Deaf children.

Deaf Aotearoa

Deaf Aotearoa is the Disabled Persons' Organisation (DPO) representing the voice of Deaf People, and the national service provider for Deaf people in New Zealand.

Deaf Aotearoa's services include:

- First Signs – access to NZSL and language development for families of deaf children age 0 – 5
- Youth – activities that develop strong Deaf identities and leadership skills, and providing a youth internship programme
- Employment – a transition programme and job seeking support, and supports Deaf people to retain their employment or upskill
- Hauora – needs assessments, assistive equipment, and information and advice
- iSign – NZSL interpreting services that assist communication between Deaf and hearing people.

Deaf Aotearoa works closely with Deaf communities, government agencies and other organisations to increase awareness, promote NZSL and strengthen the rights of Deaf people.

Deaf Aotearoa is the New Zealand representative to the World Federation of the Deaf.

Deaf Aotearoa also provides education and awareness courses to organisations that want to learn about Deaf culture and NZSL. These courses can be tailored to accommodate organisations' interests and time requirements.

Deaf Awareness courses

Get an insight into the Deaf world, explore NZSL, Deaf culture and the community through these interactive courses. They're ideal for breaking down communication barriers for businesses, groups and organisations.

NZSL Courses

NZSL courses are tailored to your environment. Courses can teach basic principles of NZSL including NZSL grammar and common words and phrases. Courses can also be designed to teach words and phrases specific to your environment. NZSL courses can be provided in a setting that suits you, for example, First Signs family's home, Kindergartens or Early Childhood Education centres.

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For more information visit deaf.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND

SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

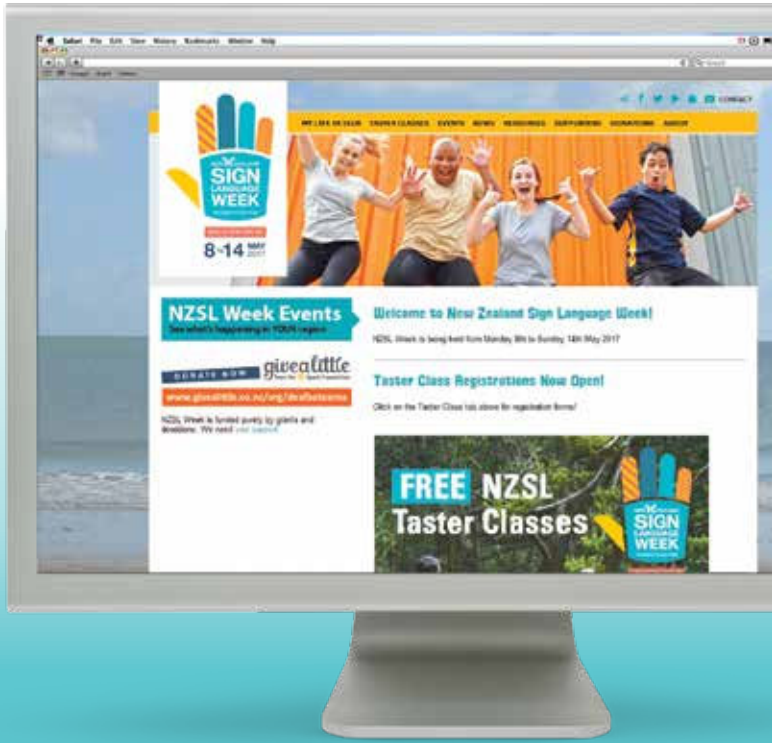
TE WIKI O TE REO TURI

Every May, Deaf Aotearoa organises New Zealand Sign Language Week – a celebration of one of the country's official languages.

NZSL Week is a chance for the Deaf community to stand proud as Deaf, and to celebrate their language and culture. It also works to break down barriers, fears and misconceptions. NZSL Week lets Deaf New Zealanders put their hands up and be seen!

Our vision for NZSL Week is to increase awareness and understanding of NZSL and the Deaf community, and to empower and strengthen the Deaf community.

For more information visit nzslweek.org.nz


SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK
8-14 MAY
NZSL Week Events
Welcome to New Zealand Sign Language Week!
Taster Class Registrations Now Open!
FREE NZSL Taster Classes

HOW TO COMMUNICATE **WITH A DEAF PERSON**

A conversation with a Deaf person is the same as a conversation with a hearing person – Deaf people just use different communication tools. Like hearing people, Deaf people are unique individuals with interesting qualities and skills. They have families, jobs and hobbies.

You can communicate with Deaf people in several ways, including New Zealand Sign Language, spoken/written English or a mix of these.

Appropriate use of gesture, body language and facial expressions can also be very effective, as Deaf people communicate visually.

Not all Deaf people can lip read well. It's estimated 70% of lip reading is guesswork, even if the speaker articulates clearly. That's why relying solely on lip reading as a way to communicate isn't recommended.

Face the Deaf person and get their attention before speaking. Eye contact is very important so try to maintain it and don't turn away while the Deaf person is signing.

Using a New Zealand Sign Language Interpreter is the best way to ensure full communication occurs. Booking an interpreter is easy and quick and will avoid communication breakdowns.

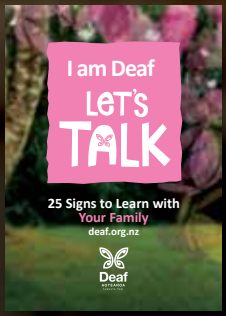
To book an interpreter, contact iSign:
www.isign.co.nz
0800 934 683 or Free TXT: 3359
bookings@isign.co.nz

A FEW TIPS FOR **SIGN LANGUAGE**

Facial expressions
Facial expressions are an important aspect of NZSL. In spoken languages, intonations are used to indicate what kind of sentence it is – a question or statement. NZSL shows intonation using facial expressions. Having a plain facial expression is like speaking with a monotonous voice. It's boring!

Hand position
Hand positioning is very important. It's helpful to see the signs in action – you can look up videos for these signs in the NZSL Dictionary online at nzsl.nz or download the app from Google Play and the Apple App store.

Which hand to use?
Use your dominant hand – the hand you write with – to execute all of the signs. For some signs you'll need to use both hands.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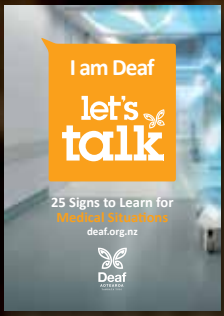
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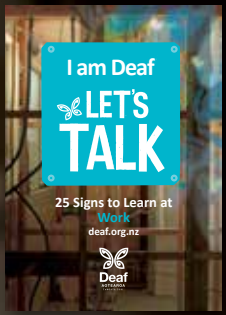
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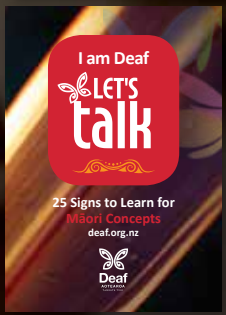
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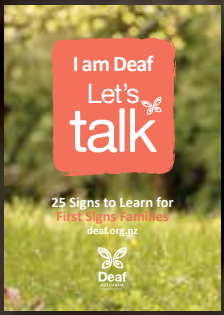
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25 SIGNS TO LEARN FOR THE WEEKEND

This is one of a series of booklets designed to introduce you to NZSL.
It gives you a practical opportunity to quickly learn some basic vocabulary relevant to your environment.

Learn these signs and use them as often as you can. Tell your friends about them and share the wonderful gift of NZSL. Then you'll understand why 25,000 New Zealanders use it every day!

ALSO AVAILABLE:

25 Signs to Learn with Your Family
25 Signs to Learn for Medical Situations
25 Signs to Learn at Work
25 Signs to Learn for Māori Concepts
25 Signs to learn for First Signs Families

art

INSTRUCTIONS

Flat left hand is held out palm up/back/right, fingers pointing forward/right. Right fist is held out higher, palm facing signer/left with the first two fingers extended together and pointing up, the other fingers loosely curled. The right hand moves down with an irregular side to side movement at/from the elbow – like brushing paint on a canvas.

▮ Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

beer/bar

INSTRUCTIONS

The right fist is held up near the right side of the jaw, palm left/forward, blade forward/right, with the thumb extended, and is moved towards the mouth, three times.

bicycle

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held out, a little way apart, palms down, blades out, and forefingers curled. Hands are moved forward in small forward circles, alternately twice.

dinner

INSTRUCTIONS

Both hands are held out in front of the chest, palms facing the signer, blades down/out, loosely closed with the thumbs pressed to the forefingers, and are raised alternately up/in towards the mouth, twice.

VICTORIA

facebook

INSTRUCTIONS

The palm of the right hand is flat against the right cheek, and the thumb lifts away twice, with the blade maintaining contact on the cheek.

game console

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held out together from the bent elbows, palms facing each other, blades down/back, with the forefingers hooked and the thumbs extended. The thumbs flex down against the forefingers, rising a little and pressing down again.

▮ Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

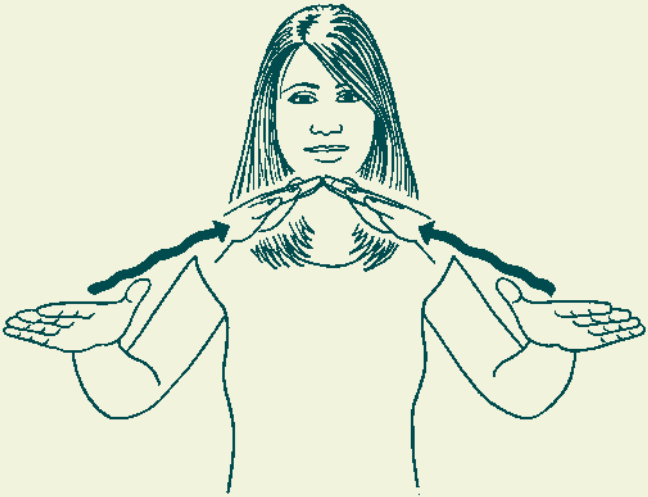
AAT
Weste
infinity
Hawa
contiki
HOLIDAYS FOR 18-35'S
Europe
2011-12
Legendary for a reason

holiday

INSTRUCTIONS

Both flat hands are held up at shoulder height, palms facing away from the signer with the thumbs extended and the fingers apart and pointing up. The hands are moved in small vertical circles, the right clockwise and the left anticlockwise, twice.

mountain



INSTRUCTIONS

Both flat hands are held at chest level, some way apart, palms facing each other with the fingertips pointing up/towards each other, and are moved up and towards each other so the fingertips meet at face level.

movie

INSTRUCTIONS

Flat left hand is held out, palm facing down, fingertips pointing right.
Flat right hand, palm forward, fingers spread and fingertips pointing up, is held with the wrist against the thumb joint of the left hand, and is moved side to side from the wrist.

▮ Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

netball

INSTRUCTIONS

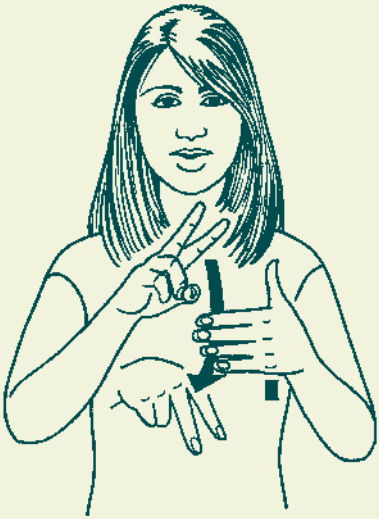
Both hands are held up some way apart at head level, palms facing forward, blades forward/up, with the fingertips under the thumb tips to form O-shape. The hands are moved forward/up, opening to full spread, twice.

party

INSTRUCTIONS

Both hands are held up above the shoulders, palms facing the signer, with the thumbs and little fingers extended and the fingers loosely closed. The hands are twisted to and fro from the wrists in small quick movements.

read



INSTRUCTIONS

The flat left hand is held out, palm up/back/right, blade down/back/right, fingers spread. The right fist is held above the left hand, palm down, blade forward/right, with the first two fingers extended and apart, and is moved down.

▮ Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

relax

INSTRUCTIONS

Both flat hands are held out hanging down from the wrists, palms back, blades out, fingers apart.
The hands turn from the wrists to palms facing up with blades back/in.

rugby

INSTRUCTIONS

Both flat hands are held apart above the waist at the right, palms facing each other, blades back, and are moved up/right across the body towards the left shoulder.

The
Great Sporting
RULE BOOK

rules

INSTRUCTIONS

Flat left hand is held out, palm up/to the signer, fingers pointing upwards.
Flat right hand, palm down, blade forward/down with fingers flexed is placed on the left palm, and moved down/towards the signer in two steps over the palm to the blade.

▮ Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

run

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held out at the sides from bent elbows, and move down in a circular motion, with movement from the elbows and shoulders

shopping

INSTRUCTIONS

Right fist is raised and brought down, the knuckles tapping the flat left palm twice.

- Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

sports

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held up a little way apart, the knuckles facing each other, blades down, with thumbs extended. The left thumb moves towards the signer, with the right thumb moving away, with the wrists twisting a little bit.

swim

INSTRUCTIONS

Both flat hands are held up in front of the chest, palms down, blades forward/out, and are moved forward and apart in horizontal circles twice.

takeaway

INSTRUCTIONS

The flat left hand is held out, palm up, fingers pointing forward. The flat right hand is held above the left hand palm down, fingers pointing forward. Both hands move back, bending at the wrists, to palms facing the signer, blades right and fingertips pointing backwards.

text

INSTRUCTIONS

The right fist is held out from the bent elbow, palm left, blade down/back, with the forefinger hooked and the thumb extended. The hand is moved forward/down, the thumb flexing down against the forefinger, rising a little and pressing down again, making small circular movements.

walk

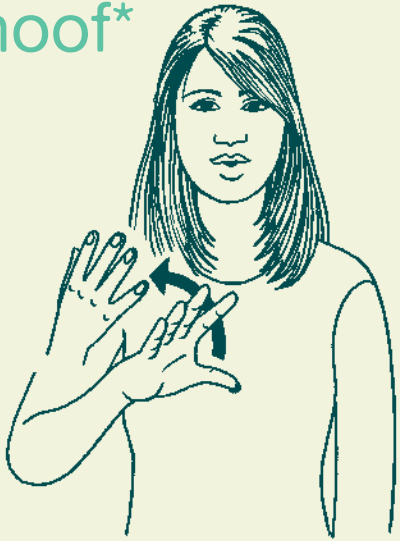
INSTRUCTIONS

Left hand is held out palm up, blade right/facing the signer. The right fist is held over the left palm, flexed down from the wrist, palm down/facing the signer, blade right, the first two fingers extended and apart. The right hand moves forward, extended fingers wiggling.

fingers wiggling as if playing a piano.

Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

whoof



INSTRUCTIONS

Flat right hand is held in front of the middle chest, palm facing the signer/down, blade forward/down, the fingers extended and apart, the thumb opposed. The hand moves up in an arc towards the shoulder, with the tip of the thumb sliding across the chest.

* NZSL slang word equivalent to cool/awesome/wicked.

win

INSTRUCTIONS

Right fist is held up at shoulder height, palm up, blade right, with the fingers clawed apart. The hand is turned from the wrist in a short sharp movement upwards and towards the signer into a fist, to palm towards signer, blade facing left.

wine

INSTRUCTIONS

Right hand is raised at shoulder level, palm facing left, blade down, the thumb and forefinger meeting to form an O-shape, the other fingers apart. The hand twists up from the wrist to palm left, blade forward by the mouth.

THANKS!

Deaf Aotearoa would like to thank all those that play a part in promoting New Zealand Sign Language Week each year. Particular thanks to Karishma.

New Zealand Government

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https://www.supportdeafaotearoa.org.nz/

For more information visit deaf.org.nz

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ANNUALLY DURING MAY