

# Why use signs and gestures for children who have difficulty understanding?

Signs help children understand you because:

- They give children something to look at as well as listen to when you speak to them.
- 'Looking' can help children listen if they have any language difficulties.
- You can move your hands to where your child can see them.
- Using a sign AND a word gives two clues about what you mean.
- It is easier to guess the meaning of a sign than a word.
- Signing helps you talk more slowly to your child.
- Signing helps you to talk more simply.

