



Sign Language

Box Contents

Books

A Picture Book of Helen Keller

David Adler

Silent Lotus

Jeanne M. Lee

Moses Goes to a Concert

Isaac Millman

Moses Goes to School

Isaac Millman

The Handmade Alphabet

Laura Rankin

The Handmade Counting Book

Laura Rankin

Secret Signs: Along the Underground Railroad

Anita Riggio

Simple Signs

Cindy Wheeler

More Simple Signs

Cindy Wheeler

Adult Resource Books

Caring for Young Children: Signing for Day Care Providers and Sitters

S. Harold Collins

Expanded Songs in Sign

S. Harold Collins

Cassette Tape

Sing 'n Sign for Fun!

Gaia

Compact Disk

Sing Along with Bob #2

Bob McGrath

Videorecording

Silent Lotus

Reading Rainbow

Toy

Ten little children felt board set (10 pieces)

Related Activities

Fingerplays

Touch

I love soft things so very much;

Soft things to feel,

Soft things to touch.

A cushioned chair,

A furry muff,

A baby's cheek,

A powder puff,

A bedtime kiss,

A gentle breeze,

My puppy's ear,

I love all these.

From *Ring a Ring O'Roses* by the Flint Public Library

Fun and Games

Feeling Sound

In the book *Moses Goes to a Concert*, the deaf and hearing impaired children "listen" to the concert by feeling the vibrations of sound in a balloon. Explore with your children some different ways it is possible for them to feel music! Start with balloons, just like Moses in the story. Select a song with a heavy bass sound, and play it on the stereo. Have the children put their hands against the speakers, or even on the floor (take off shoes!), and feel the vibrations. They can feel their own voices, too --- just place their fingers on their throats while they speak.

Surprise Box

Share with the children *A Picture Book of Helen Keller*, which tells the true story of a woman who could neither hear nor see. Show them how she first learned to understand her teacher by the finger spelling in her hand. Talk about the importance of our sense of touch, and then let children practice identifying objects with their sense of touch. Hide objects inside an old tissue box, and have children put a hand inside (no peeking!) to see if they can identify the object without looking! Let them choose objects to put in the box, too.

Act It Out

The story *Silent Lotus* (book and video in the kit) tells of a young Cambodian girl who cannot speak, but is able to communicate through dance. Let children think of ways that they communicate without speaking: hand signals, head nodding, facial expressions, body language, and, of course, print! As an extended activity, play some music and let children dance like Lotus. Or choose a simple story, such as "The Three Billy Goats Gruff," and let the children act out the parts without speaking (you might be the narrator, and encourage them to use lots of body movement and expression).

Writing Center or Box

Writing is another great way to communicate without hearing! You can encourage young children to begin developing writing skills by creating a writing box or center. Set up a play area, with desk or table, and writing and drawing essentials: paper, envelopes, pens, pencils, tape, stapler, stickers, clipboard, scissors, hole punch, etc. Encourage children to write "memos," letters, cards, lists and instructions! Details on creating a writing box can be found in the book *Kids Have All the Write Stuff*, by Sharon Edwards (available at most libraries).

Other Connections

Learning to use sign language with favorite songs is a great way to incorporate sign language into your program. The adult resource books in this kit have simple signs for teachers and parents to use either to communicate with very young or hearing impaired children, or to use to begin to learn simple signs with the children you care for. You can listen to Bob McGrath's music CD and find the signs for many of the familiar songs in the book *Expanded Songs in Sign*. Gaia's cassette includes songs with suggestions for sign language also.

The felt board pieces show young children counting up to ten. Look closely at their hands, and you will see that they are signing the numbers 1-10 in addition to sitting on or playing next to a numeral! Encourage your children to imitate the felt children as you count together. Your curriculum manual includes a sheet with ideas for how to use the felt board children, including words to a counting song in English and Spanish.

Other related Books To Grow On theme kits: People with Special Needs, Noises, Kids Create Stories, and Health.

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