



**Project Overview:
Can Sign Language
Empower Non-Deaf
Children to Triumph
over their
Communication
Disabilities?**

BridgeOfSigns

Sign Language Bank in **ASL** and **LSQ**

What is the Bridge of Signs Language Bank?

The Bridge of Signs Language Bank is based on a model developed through the Canadian Association of the Deaf's Bridge of Signs research project, a pioneering study that examined the use of sign language as a communication tool for non-Deaf children. Funded by the Social Development Partnerships Program and managed by the Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD), the study focused on children under 6 years of age who had also been diagnosed with learning disabilities.

With the assistance of professionals in the field, a model program was developed that taught American Sign Language (ASL) and Langue des Sourds du Quebec (LSQ) sign language to children and to their facilitators.

Conclusions uncovered by the project were ground-breaking. By the study's end, staff, therapists and parents of hearing children observed increased verbalization.

Who is this DVD for?

The Bridge of Signs model and manual is a lesson package designed for children over 6 months of age. Featuring step-by-step animations and video clips, this is an ideal parent-child activity that can engage the entire family. The Bridge of Signs DVD can grow with your child. Begin with basic signs and work to expand vocabulary as your child matures.

How Bridge of Signs can benefit you...

"Bridge of Signs" intended to increase the ability of a child to communicate effectively by teaching ASL or LSQ to the child. Awareness of how a disability had interfered with a child's communication was brought into focus as the model engaged children, parents and educators in creating a meaningful communication- including that produced by speech.

As noted by teaching staff, speech language therapists and parents, hearing children who have used the Bridge of Signs model in ASL or LSQ continued and in some cases, increased their language development through sign language and increased verbalization.

For more information, or to order the Bridge of Signs Sign Language Bank in ASL and LSQ, please contact the Canadian Association of the Deaf at:

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ISBN 978-0-9783260-1-2
ISBN 978-0-9783260-2-9



"Protecting and promoting the rights, needs and concerns of Deaf people in Canada"