

Fun Facts

Sign Language & Key Word Sign



Sign language uses both facial expression gestures, body language and hand movements widely used to communicate with the deaf community



Each country in the world has their own unique sign language.

Auslan has its own grammar, known as 'visual-gestural', using movement to convey grammar and meaning.



Key word Sign (KWS) is a simplified version of the local sign language (Auslan) and combines speech with sign to help support communication and language development of children and adults with communication difficulties.

Deaf People receive a unique Name Sign from their community, often based on a person's characteristics.

Babies growing up in a signing household will pick up sign like spoken languages, and will start "babbling" with their hand.



KWS is often used alongside other Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) such as communication and picture books.

Deaf People receive a unique Name Sign from their community, often based on a person's characteristics.

Some people are bilingual (verbal and fluent in sign) and some identify as bilingual and bicultural (Deaf Culture)

References:

Aruma,, '5 Surprising Facts about sign language', website, 2021
Key Word Sign Australia, 'What is Key Word Sign?', website, 2021
National Association of the Deaf, website, 2021