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Opening extract from

A first guide to baby signing

Text by

Katie Mayne, Tiny Talk

Graphics by

Emma Dodd

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amazing baby®

a first guide to

baby signing

why? and how?

why?

Sign language provides a way for babies to tell others what they want or what they are thinking about. It also helps them understand what is being said to them. At around six to nine months old babies realise that objects have names (i.e. they grasp the concept of vocabulary). They also have good control of their hands and can look at objects with you. Vocal cords are not fully developed for words to be understood until 12 to 18 months old. Baby sign language bridges this wide gap.

how?

Visual clues (i.e. signs) help babies make sense of the words that they hear as they look at things around them. Every time an object is introduced, the vocabulary item is both said and signed. Only one or two signs, such as 'milk' and 'food', are introduced at first. Babies can sign back with understanding as early as four to six weeks later. Other signs can then be introduced, a few at a time. These will be learnt much more quickly and a wide vocabulary will develop.

