

How to teach your child

Spanish with Baby Sign Language

1 START YOUNG

Connect Spanish words through action and language to your baby. For example, when she needs milk, sign the word and say "la leche" while holding a bottle of milk or breastfeeding. Your baby will not understand the word at first, but you will have her attention because of the signing and act of breastfeeding or the use of the bottle. The same technique applies to toddlers and school age children. This is setting a foundation for Spanish.

If you are hesitant about the pronunciation of the Spanish words and phrases, Smart Coos has created a platform that makes Spanish an easy, learning process where you are provided with short bite-sized videos introducing the signs and words on the chart. These BSL videos, use a native speaker for proper pronunciation while providing a frame of reference for you and letting your baby hear the rhythm of a native speaker.

2 BE ENTHUSIASTIC

You will hold your child's attention longer if you act interested and enthusiastic. Get goofy and make your baby laugh. One of Smart Coos' principals is that learning language through sign should be fun. Make Spanish exciting for your baby.

3 BE SIMPLE

Don't use complicated signs with Spanish vocabulary. Use signs with Spanish words for things that your baby is used to seeing every day whether in real life, in a book, or on television. The more she is familiar with a person, place, or thing — the more likely your baby is to pick up the Spanish word for it.



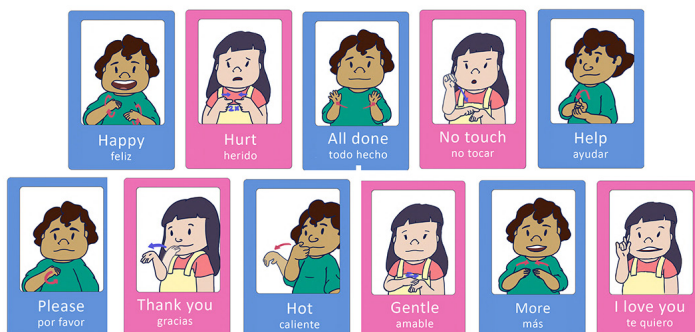
4 REPEAT, REPEAT

Use baby sign language with Spanish vocabulary as much as possible. For example, sign and say "la leche" every time your child needs milk. Frequent reinforcement is critical for your baby to pick up the language quickly and easily. Smart Coos recommends you and your child "sign and say" frequently throughout the day...

5 ENCOURAGE AND REWARD

When your baby does start using your baby signs, be sure to encourage them. Encouragement may be as simple as acknowledging the sign or Spanish word/ phrase. Your baby will be more inclined to keep signing and speaking Spanish after receiving praise or reward. Also, this could provide an opportunity to expose them to Spanish culture — be creative in your rewards.

Manners/Feelings



Family



Animals



Food



Other

