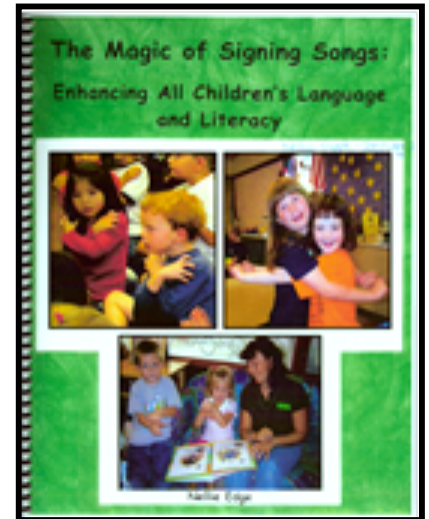


# Research Supports Teaching All Children to Fingerspell and Sign Songs



## Summary of Benefits:

- Engages the child's multiple intelligences in representing language symbolically.
- Develops phonemic awareness, **the alphabetic principal, voracious vocabulary**, and high-frequency words.
- Facilitates a comfort in **understanding and expressing feelings**.
- Fingerspelling **develops the small muscles** necessary for writing.
- Develops **all communication skills**, which provide the window to basic literacy and academic excellence across disciplines.  
*"It should be remembered that we speak more than we write. Throughout our lives we judge others, and we ourselves are judged, by what we say and how we speak." ~ Ernest Boyer*



- Encourages the child to **share school experiences at home**.
- **Builds community** through shared language experiences.
- Provides a **constructive physical outlet for the kinesthetic learner**.
- Combines "saying and doing," which increases retention of language and concepts by **90%**.
- Provides a **natural bridge for limited English speaking children** in developing a second language.
- Engages the high-risk learners in building confidence and **enthusiasm for learning**.
- **Encourages the whole child to focus attention on learning**.
- Provides an introduction to the **beautiful visual gestural language of ASL**.
- **Accelerates learning in the child's first and second language**, bridging the achievement gap.
- Personalizes language and concepts through "**total emotional body response**."
- Can lead to **memorable performances** for parents.
- **Builds comprehension** by creating **internal images of language**.
- Is **supported by brain research** and language acquisition theory.
- Singing and signing fluently with expression, gesture, and confidence **builds children's speaking skills**.
- **Supports inclusion programs**.
- **Teaches life skills. ASL is the third most common language in the United States.**



*"Our job is not to help kids do well in school. It's to help them do well in life." ~ Elliot Eisner*

- Reading the 3-dimensional language of sign **develops visual skills for reading** printed language.
- Provides **Talented and Gifted (TAG) students a challenge - one that parents love!**