Sign Language Vocab Cards

What’s Included:
In this file you will find a set of vocabulary cards that can contain ASL signs for each word. These words have been selected because they are 59 of the most common first words in children with typically developing speech and language. These are great first words to teach your child.

Printing Instructions:
Print the following pages on card stock or thicker paper. Print the pages on the front and back of pieces of paper so that the sign language is on the back of the picture of the object or action. Laminate the pages if desired for added protection. Then, cut out the cards and use as flashcards.

Speech and Language Activities:

Teaching Vocabulary:
You can use these cards to teach your child a new word. Choose one card each time you work with your child. Get out the object on the card or if it is an action card, get out several objects that you can use to perform that action. Play with that object with your child and say/sign the word many times for your child. Encourage your child to imitate your word or sign the object or action to request it.

Receptive Vocabulary:
Place two or three of the cards in front of your child with the picture side (not the sign) up. Ask your child to point to one of the pictures. You can say “show me the ball” or “touch the car”. Then, help your child point to the correct picture. This will help him learn the words.

Expressive Vocabulary:
Ask your child “what is this?” when showing him a picture of an object or “what is she doing?” for pictures of actions. Help your child say or sign what they see in the picture.

Sign Language:
You can use these cards to learn signs for common first words. Researchers have found that using sign language when you speak to your child can increase her language and vocabulary skills and having a child use sign language to communicate can serve as a bridge to spoken communication.

Hide the Cards:
You can do any of the above activities by hiding the cards. If you’re working on receptive vocabulary, hide a few cards around the room in plain sight. Have your child go find the one you say. If you’re working on expressive vocabulary, hide the cards in a bag of beans, laundry, or anything else. When your child finds a card, have him tell you what it’s called.
again

all done

all gone

away

big

little
all done
again
away
all gone
little
big
help
in
more
my
your
no
in
help
my
more
no
your
open

on

sit

put

throw

stop
bird
dog
toilet
sink
shirt
bathtub
shoe
cup
cracker
pants
bowl
spoon
apple

cookie

table

bed

boy

chair
baby
girl

glue
slide

block
marker
ball
bubbles
car
airplane
bike
bubbles

ball

airplane

car

bike