

EXPRESS YOURSELF IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE



Rocket Languages Newsletter

May 26, 2016

The Benefits of Learning American Sign Language:

American Sign Language is used in more professions and in more situations than you might first think. In addition to being the primary language of Deaf communities within North America, ASL is useful for teachers, elder care workers, medical professionals, firefighters, police and many more. Parents of young children can also find signing helpful while trying to communicate with their infant before they have the ability to talk. According to *WebMD*, signing with a baby before the onset of speech improves communication at an earlier age. As a result, tantrum rates lower and bonds can improve.

Start With Fingerspelling:

Practicing the American Manual Alphabet is a great way to get started in the process of learning to sign. The AMA consists of the individual signs for each letter in the alphabet. When the sign for a particular word is not known, it can always be spelled out. Rocket uses video to show how to sign, and gives invaluable tips to read on the most effective way to communicate. For example: when utilizing fingerspelling, words are often abbreviated.

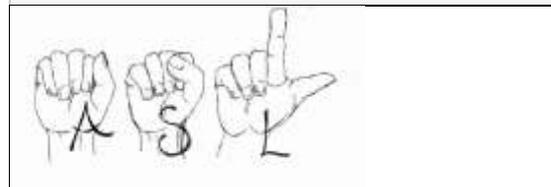
Did You Know?

American sign language is not simply the English language in another form. It is considered a foreign language. ASL has its own grammar and meanings. Body movement and facial expressions are also important when learning how to sign.



Baby Signing:

There is a separate section in the Rocket American Sign Language course for suggestions on how to teach a baby to sign. Videos on how to sign important first words such as "Mommy", "Daddy" and more can be found here, as well as tips on the best time to start teaching.



Common Words and Phrases:

Since it takes time to learn any language, one of the earliest lessons on the Rocket ASL section teaches students how to ask someone to repeat what they just signed, and how to request that they slow down. From there the lessons go on to basic introductions, how to ask questions, how to communicate illness, and there is a immense dictionary section with videos on how to sign thousands of common words.

Conversation Skills:

In American Sign Language, the word deaf with a lower case 'd' has a different meaning than it does with an upper case 'D'. It is important to know the difference when talking to someone. Also, many expressions used in ASL conversation are different than they are in spoken language. For example signing "finish-touch" translates to "been there, done that". Signing "train go sorry" means "you missed the boat." There are many features of the language that go far beyond just memorizing signs. These must be understood for conversations to be successful. Rocket can help with that too.

More Features:

In addition to the items featured above, Rocket offers memory tips and tricks, a game to test your knowledge, an on-line forum where learners can ask questions or meet other ASL students, and there is an overview of the different forms of sign language around the world.

What Are Rocket Sign Language Students Saying?:

Users of the Rocket Sign Language Program have the option to leave comments about the program if they wish. Some have shared why they started to use the program and others gave a review. Here are some samples:

Lip Reading:

According to *Encyclopedia.com*, learning to read lips can help those who use sign language to communicate faster. Lip reading alone can be a difficult way to communicate as forming some words use tongue movements that can't be seen. Sign language and lip reading together offer a faster way to interact. Rocket offers a section on lip reading as well.

More Languages:

Other languages available on Rocket to learn

include: Italian, German, Portuguese, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Spanish and English.

Rocket Apps:

Free Rocket Languages apps are available at the iTunes store and Google Play. Don't forget to try them out!

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Use this link to put the newsletter in your browser and share it with your patrons. Put the link on your website, facebook, twitter...tell the world that your library has free language lessons !!!

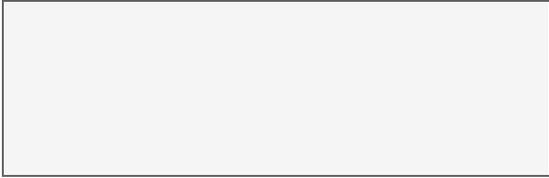
<http://www.icontact-archive.com/rRNQRindhS7dymwgjcvUTRFgp2WIo7uF?w=3>

"When I was in junior high and high school, I thought I was going deaf, because I couldn't hear the person right next to me...It turns out I have an auditory processing disorder..... I'm finding the interpreters easier to understand since running through the dictionary of Rocket Sign Language. I'm changing a lot of my ten-year-old (and wrong) signs after seeing them demonstrated in video....Thanks Rocket Sign Language."

"My congregation is looking for someone to learn signing, so I volunteered."

"Hello, I have just purchased this program. I am a hearing person, but have met the person of my dreams. They are deaf....I do not want communication to be a boundary...Thank you for making it easy.."

"I am just starting to learn ASL on this program, so far I like it a a lot!"



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