

Early signing/gesture support for young children with Down's syndrome

- Facilitate showing, giving, and pointing.
- Provide enriched experiences with object manipulation and turn-taking with objects.
- Show objects first before providing instruction.
- Point along the path of action (e.g. 'put the apple on the plate' while pointing from the apple to the plate).
- Reinforce children's gestures/signing by imitating the child's gesture while providing the spoken translation.
- If the child does not gesture/sign, prompt 'show me', then provide a subsequent gesture and verbal model.
- Support child's verbal recall with gesture.

(Adapted from: Capone and McGregor, 2004)