

POST FAMILY VISIT

Aims

1. To have students consider their own communication
2. To help students understand the importance of listening and turn-taking in communication
3. To help students understand that some people have challenges in speaking and listening
4. To help students understand how it might feel to have those challenges
5. To help students learn the importance of making everyone feel included
6. To have students use some New Zealand Sign Language
7. To expand students' literacy of feelings to encompass words which express feelings of exclusion

Preparation

- Contact the teacher to:
 - Confirm the date and time of the visit
 - Explain the lesson plan
- Photocopy one category of *New Zealand Sign Language Signs* for each of 5 or 6 groups

Materials

- *New Zealand Sign Language Signs* (Appendix Theme 7-C)
- **Book:** Please refer to the Roots of Empathy Booklist and Curriculum Questions Handout

Activities

Introducing

Begin by saying that you are continuing the focus on *communicating* today. Review the Family Visit and remind the students about how they watched the way in which the baby communicated without words.



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Discussing Communicating (Aims 1, 2)

Ask students: “What makes it easy to communicate with someone? What is hard about it? What makes a good listener?”

• Ask students to think about who they communicate with the most and whether or not they are good listeners. Tell them they don’t have to share their answers with the class; they can just think about the questions and keep their answers private.

Discussing Feelings (Aims 1-5, 7)

Tell students that not everyone can communicate with spoken words because some people can’t hear and some people can’t talk. Ask them what it might feel like if you couldn’t take part in a communication? Explain that even though not all people can do the same things, it is very important to make everyone always feel welcome and included. Ask for examples of how people who can’t hear or talk communicate (lip read, sign language, body language, writing, computer programs).

Reading

Please refer to the Roots of Empathy Booklist and Curriculum Questions Handout.

The Roots of Empathy program uses literature to open up the door to feelings and perspective taking. The discussion and reflection that follows builds solidarity and empathy at the classroom level.

Discussion (Aims 3-5, 7)

Ask the students if they know of anyone who is deaf or who has difficulty speaking or hearing (if there is a student in the class who is challenged, avoid this question). Have students consider what it might be like to have this challenge or a different physical challenge. Then introduce the importance of making sure that everyone feels included as part of a group and that having a difference should not make a person feel excluded. We need to be aware of how they are feeling.

New Zealand Sign Language (Aims 5, 6)

Have the students form 5 or 6 groups. Tell them that they are going to learn some words from New Zealand Sign Language. Give each group a different thematic set of signs and have each student in the group learn one of those signs. They can take turns demonstrating their signs to other group members. Then have the groups present their signs, one at a time, to the other groups. To end the activity, point out that when they



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see signing at public events, it is an example of making a point of including everyone.

- Continue to use some of the signs from time to time in subsequent visits.

Concluding

Encourage students to teach someone at home some of the signs they learned today. Tell students that they have the ability to make anyone who is feeling excluded, feel *included*.



Weather



Ice, Freeze

Both flat hands are held out, palms down/facing the signer, hanging from the wrists with the fingers apart and pointing down, and are raised a little, flexing up from the wrists to be held rigidly, palm down with the fingers hooked. Body leans back a bit.



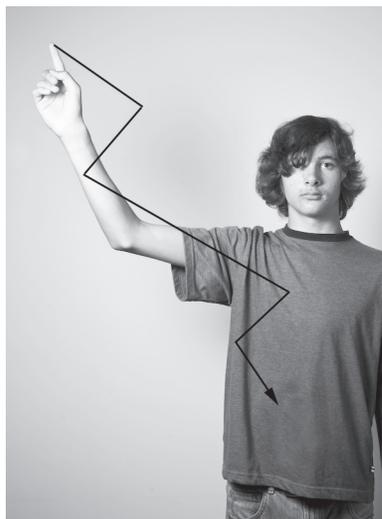
Rain

Both hands are raised above the shoulders, palms forward, fingers apart and pointing up. The hands are lowered vertically with the fingers wiggling, bending forward from the elbows so that the fingertips point forward at midriff height.



Snow

With the right hand grasp at the chest and then move the hand slightly down and forward, bringing the fingers and thumb together. Then place hands palms down in front of the chest and move them down while wiggling the fingers.



Thunder/ Lightening

The right hand is raised above and to the right of the head at arm's length, palm forward/left, extended forefinger pointing up, the other fingers loosely closed. The forefinger moves down and left in a slanting zigzag.



Cloudy

The right hand is held up above head height, palm facing forward/up, slightly cupped with the fingers apart, and is moved side to side from the wrist, twice. Eyes gaze up.



Sun

The right hand is held up to the right of the head, palm back/left, blade forward/left, with the fingertips bunched under the thumb, and is moved down/back/left towards the head, opening to full spread.



Family



Mother

The right fist is raised to the head, palm left/down, blade forward, the forefinger extended. The tip of the forefinger contacts the right temple.



Father

The right fist is raised, palm left/down, blade forward, with the forefinger extended and curved. The side of the forefinger taps the chin twice.



Brother

Both fists are held out, palms facing each other, blades forward/down, and are rubbed up and down against each other, with contact between the first and second knuckles, twice.



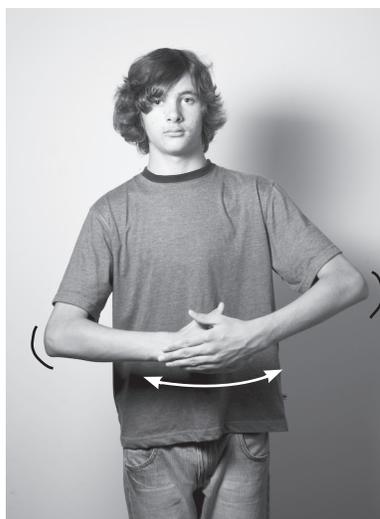
Sister

The right fist is held in front of the eyes, palm left, blade forward, with the forefinger extended and curved. The side of the forefinger is moved down/towards the signer, and tapped on the bridge of the nose, twice.



Me

The right fist is held up in front of the middle of the chest, palm facing the signer, blade down, with the forefinger flexed. The tip of the forefinger is tapped on the middle of the chest, twice.

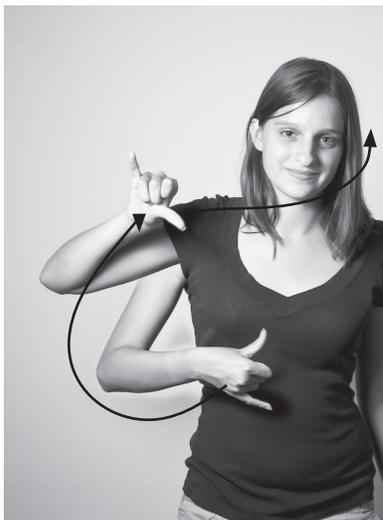


Baby

Both hands are held out, palms up, blades facing the signer, fingers slightly curved, with the left palm against the back of the right hand. The formation is moved from side to side in a rocking action. Shoulders follow arms.



Travel



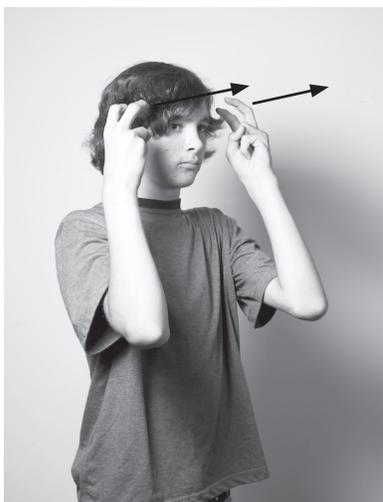
Airplane/Fly

The right hand is held out from the bent elbow at the lower right side, palm left, thumb and little finger extended sideways, other fingers flexed down. The hand rises in curving movements out to the side then across the body to above the head at the left.



Boat

Both flat hands are held out, blades down, with the right hand fingertips meeting the left hand fingertips and the joined tips pointing forward. The formation moves horizontally forward, rising and falling slightly from the wrists.



Train

Both fists are held up at the sides of the head, palms facing each other, blades forward, the first two fingers of each hand extended, apart and curved. The hands are moved forward.



Car

Both fists are held out some way apart at chest level, palms in, blades down. The hands are moved slightly up and down alternately, twice.



Camera

Both fists are raised towards the face, some way apart, palms facing each other, blades forward, forefingers extended and thumbs opposed to form L-shapes, the other fingers loosely closed. The right forefinger is flexed down from the second knuckle, twice.



Suitcase

The right fist is held a little way from the right hip, palm left, blade back. The fist is bounced a little up and down, twice.



Feelings



Happy

The flat right hand is held up to the chest, palm facing the signer, the fingertips pointing up/left. The hand pats the upper chest, brushing upwards a little, twice.



Sad

The right fist is held up in front of the chin, palm facing the signer, blade down, the forefinger curving towards the opposed thumb in a C-shape. The tips of the thumb and forefinger touch the corners of the mouth, and the hand is moved vertically down a little way. Brows lowered, lower lip pouting.



Angry

Both fists are raised to the signer's head, palms facing each other, blades forward/down. The thumb knuckles touch the temples, and the fists move sharply forward/apart to palms forward, blades out, fingers spread. Brows frown, mouth grimacing.



Proud

The flat right hand is raised to the upper left arm, palm right/up/back, blade left/down/back. With the blade in contact, the hand is brushed down the upper arm, twice.



Jealous

The right fist is held out, palm left, blade down, with forefinger extended, while the slightly lowered jaw is moved side to side. Mouth slightly open.

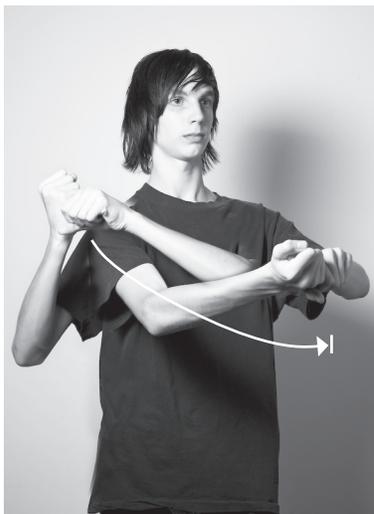


Lonely

The flat right hand is raised to the chin, palm facing the signer, blade down/left, fingers flexed, thumb opposed. The hand is moved forward/down, the pads of the fingers closing onto the pad of the thumb. Head is tilted left, mouth corners down.



Sports



**Softball/
Baseball**

Both fists are held up in front of the signer's right shoulder, the left fist below the right fist as if holding a softball bat, and is swung forward across the chest towards the left, the right fist turning palm up.



Fishing

The left hand, loosely closed, is held out palm left, blade down. The right fist, palm down, blade right, is held out lower and closer to the signer, and moved from the wrist forward, down and round in small anticlockwise vertical circles.



Swimming

Both flat hands are held up in front of the chest, palms down, blades forward/out, the right fingers placed across the backs of the left fingers, and are moved forward and apart in horizontal circles, twice.



Soccer

The right fist is held up to the right of the head, palm left, blade forward, and is moved to contact the side of the forehead, bouncing off to the right.



Cricket

Both fists are held near the right hip, the right elbow raised, the left palm back, blade left, the right palm forward, blade left, with the thumb joint side of the left fist near the blade of the right fist. Both hands are moved forward/left as the left elbow rises. Shoulders follow arms.



Hockey

The left hand is held near the waist, palm right/up, blade back, fingers curved and clasping the right fist, which is held palm left, blade back. Both hands are moved left/up, and return to the first position, twice.



Animals/Pets



Cat

Both fists are held in front of the face, palms facing each other, blades forward, with the tips of the extended forefingers on the cheeks and the tips of the opposed thumbs on the jaws. The hands move apart towards the sides, forefinger tips closing onto thumb tips, twice.



Dog

The flat right hand pats the signer's right thigh, several times.



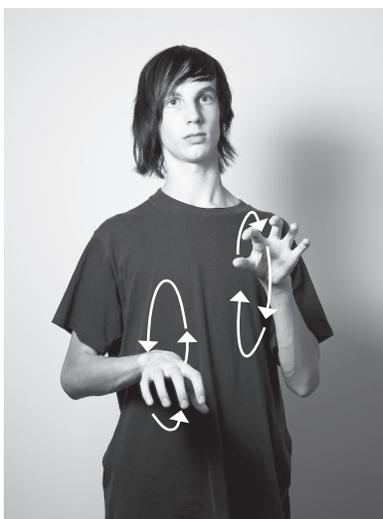
Bird

The right fist is held in front of the lower face, palm forward, blade right, with the forefinger flexed and the thumb opposed. The pad of the forefinger closes onto the thumb, several times.



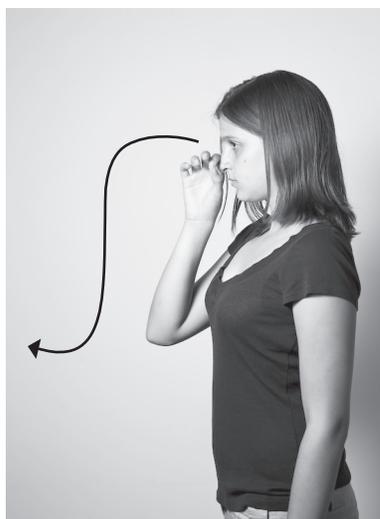
Sheep/Lamb

Both hands are held out side by side in front of the midriff, palms down, blades out, flexed down from the wrists and knuckles so that the fingertips point forward/down. The hands are bounced down, twice.



Tiger

Both hands are held out, palms down, with the fingers apart and hooked, and moved alternately up and forward in small vertical circles, twice.



Elephant

The right hand is held at the bridge of the nose, palm left with the thumb and forefinger tips meeting in an O-shape and the other fingers curved. The O-shape is moved forward and down, then a little way forward and up.



