



# Introducing BSL

## Communicating When Deaf

**Being Deaf means that we can't hear. There are many types of Deafness- some Deaf people still hear some things and other Deaf people hear nothing at all. This lesson introduces children to living with Deafness and allows them to see the normality in it.**

**Step 1:** Introduce this clip of Steph to the pupils. Presented in BSL with English interpretation, Steph introduces the notion that **"hearing is the only thing we can't do – everything else we are just the same as you!"**

**Step 2:** Discuss how Steph was speaking in the clip, using her hands. Ask the children what they noticed.

BSL is short for British Sign Language and is the language that some Deaf people use. Sign Languages use the hands and facial expressions to communicate and is a language just the same as English or Welsh is!

**Step 3:** Now that the children are familiar with BSL, watch the [following excerpt](#) of the play.



### Literacy

#### Framework

Listen to others with concentration, understanding the main points and asking for clarification if needed.

#### Progression Statements

##### LLC

I can understand that people use different languages.

I am beginning to understand that there are similarities and differences between our languages.

Draw their attention to the finger spelling and how letters can be presented.

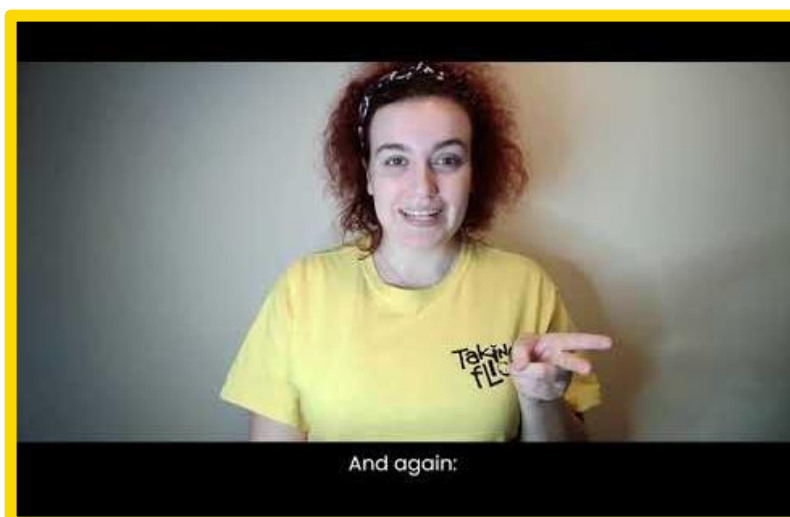
**Step 4:** Explain, just as English has “ABC...” BSL users also have an alphabet that they use – it’s called fingerspelling!

Now use a combination of our guide (attached) and this clip of Steph to introduce the alphabet.



**Step 5:** If you can fingerspell it is really useful as you can tell people your name! *Now use what we’ve learned to practise spelling your names.*

**Step 6:** Now watch the next clip of Steph – introducing how to say “what’s your name?” followed by, “my name is...”



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Again, practise these in pairs.

**Step 7:** Finally set the children off on task.

*Introduce yourselves to others and ask their names.*

*Remember, no English today only BSL!*

Teachers have to join in too 😊

## Further Introductions to BSL

**There are plenty of opportunities to use and learn about British Sign Language. Here are three further activity ideas to help your class enjoy their use of BSL.**

### Animals

In First Three Drops the magic potion gives Gwion the power to shapeshift into many different animals. Ceridwen the witch also shapeshifts into animals to try and catch him. This game teaches animal signs linked to these animals.



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## Colours

There are lots of colours in the show First Three Drops – what colour do you think Ceridwen’s magic potion was? Let’s learn the rainbow song!



## Seasons

The potion in First Three Drops had to be stirred for one year and one day – now that’s a very long time! In the show Morfran patiently waits all the way through the different seasons and was probably stood outside in a few different weathers too!



**The Rules:** This is a game that teaches signs for the seasons and the weather. After teaching the eight signs start by getting everyone

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to walk around the room and then start introducing these instructions one by one.

Spring – Everyone pretends to grow like a flower.

Summer – Everyone pretends to have the biggest ice-cream ever!

Autumn – Everyone pretends they are kicking autumn leaves!

Winter – Everyone signs “Snow” and shivers like they’re really cold!

Rain – Everyone huddles in the middle of classroom like they are trying to fit under one umbrella.

Sun – Everyone relax on the floor like you are sunbathing.

Wind – Everyone gets blown about the room like it’s really windy!

Lightning – Everyone runs and touches a wall for safety!

**You’ve now all started to learn some really amazing skills and a whole new language too!**

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