

Literacy This Week



Yukon Literacy Coalition

We are a society of people dedicated to improving the quality of life of all Yukoners. We do this by building the foundational skills required for lifelong learning; acknowledging that we are all adapting to an everchanging world.

American Sign Language

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, natural language. ASL is expressed by movements of the hands and face. It is the primary language of many North Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing, and is used by many hearing people as well.

It is suggested that ASL arose more than 200 years ago from the intermixing of local sign languages and French Sign Language (LSF, or Langue des Signes Française).

Fingerspelling is part of ASL and is used to spell out English words. In the fingerspelled alphabet, each letter corresponds to a distinct handshape. Fingerspelling is often used for proper names or to indicate the English word for something.

Try using the alphabet below to learn how to spell your name in ASL!



a



b



c



d



e



f

palm is always forward except where noted

palm forward thumb bent out

thumb also often lower (like a claw)



g

palm in



h

palm in



i



j



k



l



m



n



o

palm faces opposite side of body



p

index finger points out



q

like p but points down and unseen fingers curled in



r



s



t



u



v



w



x

palm forward
thumb can be over fingers
whole palm can be slanted to side away from body



y



z



0



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

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