

Communication rights in behaviour support planning

Engaging effectively using Key Word Sign (KWS)

Communication rights in Key Word Sign

Instructions for behaviour support practitioners

This document provides line drawings and descriptions of key manual signs to support communication during behaviour support planning and conversations.

Use Key Word Sign (KWS) together with the associated spoken word. Use Signs to emphasise key concepts by providing visual emphasis for important words and concepts.

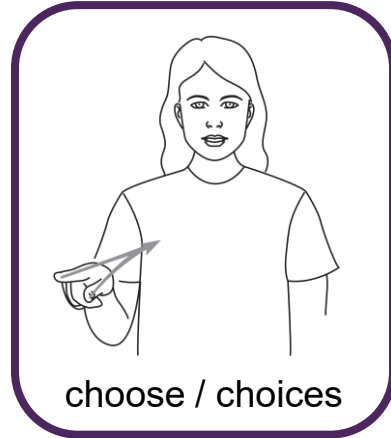
Some participants may already know some Signs and use these expressively.

Other participants may benefit from working with you to see and learn key Signs that support understanding and engagement during the behaviour support process.

Key Word Sign is an inclusive communication strategy for individuals with communication and behaviour support needs. Signs are respectfully borrowed from Auslan, Australian Sign Language.

Find more [Key Word Sign specific to behaviour support planning](https://therightdirectionpbs.com) at therightdirectionpbs.com.

Communication rights in Key Word Sign



The
Right
Direction

Working together on
positive behaviour
support (PBS)

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Communication rights in Key Word Sign (descriptions)

ACCESS

Move blade of dominant hand between middle and ring finger of non-dominant hand, twice

CHOICE (CHOOSE)

Extend dominant index finger and thumb. Close index finger onto thumb while moving hand towards body.

COMMUNICATION

Form a "C" shape with both hands. Hold in front of body, palms facing. Alternately move hands past each other, forwards and back.

DIGNIFIED (RESPECT)

Hold both hands up palms facing body. Dominant hand higher than non-dominant. Bring both hands down toward midline.

EXPRESS (SHOW)

Extend dominant index finger and place on cheek under eye on same side. Move hand forward while spreading fingers.

FEELINGS

Bend middle finger of dominant hand in, other fingers spread. Place tip of middle finger on dominant side of the body at waist height. Trace upwards in a single movement to chest height.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Hold flat non-dominant hand in front of body, palm up. Slide blade of dominant flat hand in a forwards and upwards arc across non-dominant palm.

INCLUDE

(PARTICIPATE)
Cup dominant hand, fingers splayed, palm up, and move to pinch fingers and thumb together. Move formation into cupped non-dominant hand.

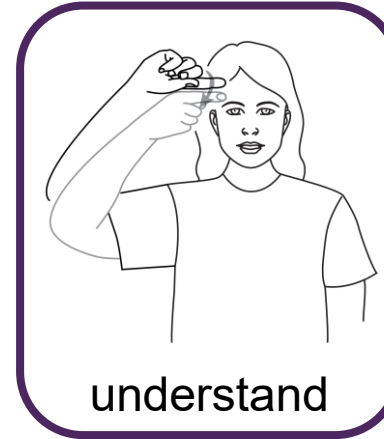
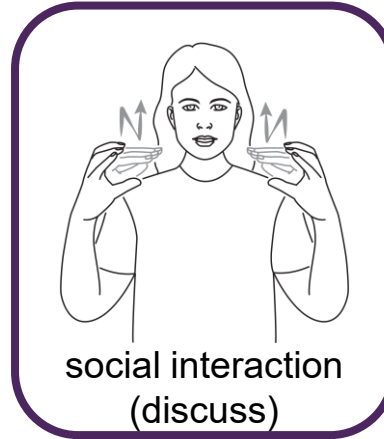
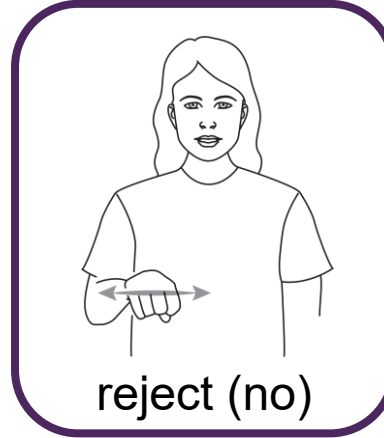
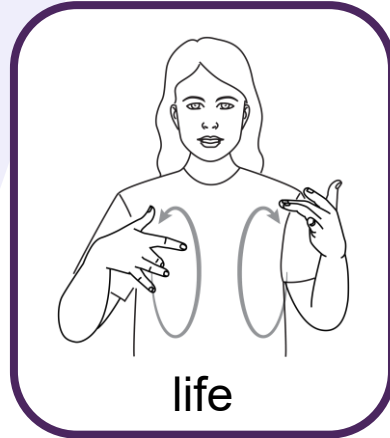
INFORMATION

Extend index fingers on both hands, palms facing body, pointing to midline. Move fingers in small forwards circles around each other.

LEARN

Hold both hands palms down with index fingers pointing forward and rub index fingers together backwards and forwards.

Communication rights in Key Word Sign



Communication rights in Key Word Sign (descriptions)

LIFE

Extend middle finger of each hand, all other fingers open. Place on either side of chest, palms facing body. Sweep middle finger up body in an alternating movement.

LISTEN

Place a slightly cupped dominant hand behind ear on same side, palm forward (natural gesture - mime the action).

REJECT (NO)

Shake dominant fist, palm down, sideways in front of body.

REQUEST (ASK)

Place tips of dominant index finger and thumb together, other fingers spread, palm facing non-dominant side. Place formation at side of mouth and move forward in a small arc.

RESOURCES (SUPPORT)

Place dominant fist on non-dominant flat hand, hold in front of body. Raise formation.

SAY / TELL

Move tip of extended dominant index finger forward away from mouth.

SERVICES

Hold flat hands at waist height, palms facing up. Alternately slide each hand forward and back on a slight angle.

SOCIAL INTERACTION (DISCUSS)

Place both hands at shoulder height, tips of dominant index, middle fingers and thumb together. Place formation at shoulder height and open and close formation, two or three times, moving hands alternately forward and back.

UNDERSTAND

Extend dominant index finger and place on forehead, palm away from body. Move formation in small outwards arc while turning palm to face body.

YOURSELF

Join middle finger and thumb of dominant hand. Hold at chest height in front of the body. Flick fingers forward to an open hand.



Find out more

therightdirectionpbs.com



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