

# Baby Sign Language

## Plant & Learn Toddler Garden

Babies as young as eighteen months are ready to interact learn and discover new things about nature and their environment. By planting a small garden together you set the stage for wonderful teaching opportunities that expose babies to objects and concepts that will expand their vocabulary and understanding of how things grow.

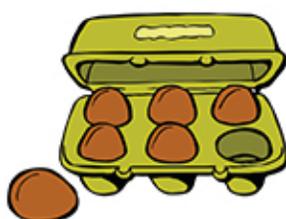
### Materials List

1. A small tilled patch of soil in a sunny spot or a large container short enough for baby to reach filled with sterilized potting soil
2. Seeds for fast growing, low risk of allergies seeds. We like radishes, cherry tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, peas and June-bearing strawberries.
3. Kid-sized garden tools (This can be replaced with sand tools left from last year's summer vacation.
4. Small watering can.
5. Printable veggies and fruits baby sign language flashcards.
6. Printable veggie tags
7. Wood craft sticks
8. Glue & scissors
9. Laminating material.



### Thrifty Gardening

To make a wonderful toddler garden you don't have to spend a ton. For example you could do a toddler-friendly scavenger hunt by letting baby identify containers that can be reused for planting such as egg cartons and yogurt containers. You can also work with baby in making small seeding pots out of newspaper. You can read how here. By doing this you afford baby the opportunity to color the newspaper or glue shapes representing the veggies and fruits you are growing together.



## Beyond BSL

Working together in the garden will afford you the opportunity to expose baby to new tasks aimed at improved fine and gross motor skills, new words both BSL and verbal, new colors and object from nature that would not otherwise be available in a three-dimensional setting. Here are some activities you can have baby do on his own:



- Sow seeds.
- Glue tags to identify crops.
- Water plants.
- Remove small weeds.



- Identify beneficial insects such as worms, ladybugs and butterflies.
- Learn new colors as fruits and vegetables reach maturity.

## Observe, Explore & Wait

Daily visits to our garden are important. While you may not have fruits or vegetables to show baby make it a point to engage him in other learning opportunities as you spend time outdoors. You may want to create together with baby a small book that shows pictures of how fruits and veggies will look when they reach full maturity. As you wait point to the sign displayed on the crop area and practice the sign and word.

Once the plant has reached maturity you will be able to help baby make the association between gardening and food. Make it a point to taste your crop on the spot and celebrate your achievement together

## Smart Toddler Gardening Practices

- Observe organic gardening practices.
- Be cautious of toxic plants.
- Teach baby not to pick anything without your permission.
- Have your soil checked for lead if you live in a high risk area.
- Wash your hands each time after gardening.

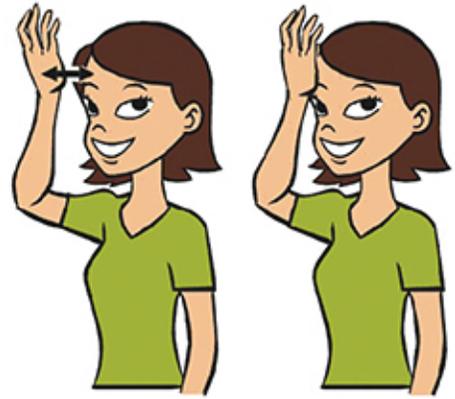
## Teaching BSL

**We have provided you with a set of free flashcards featuring fruits and veggies. Print early, practice often and laminate them. If you want to teach baby advanced concepts or additional words we encourage you to use our online dictionary. You can also print additional flashcards for supplemental learning of concepts such as water, hot, tree etc.**





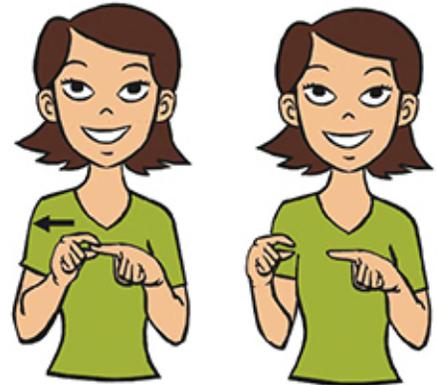
lettuce



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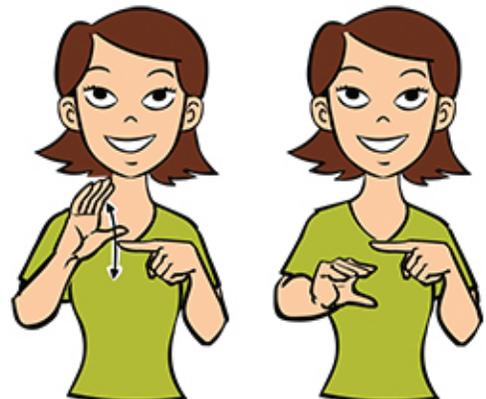
bean



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cucumber



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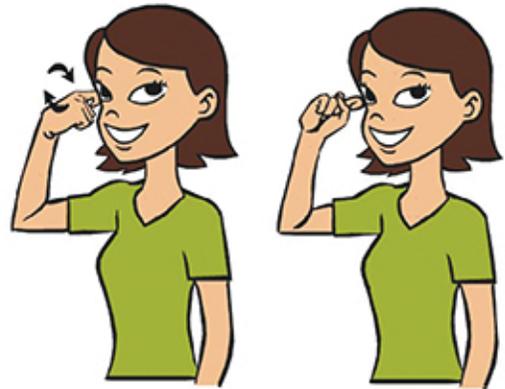


melon



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onion



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peas



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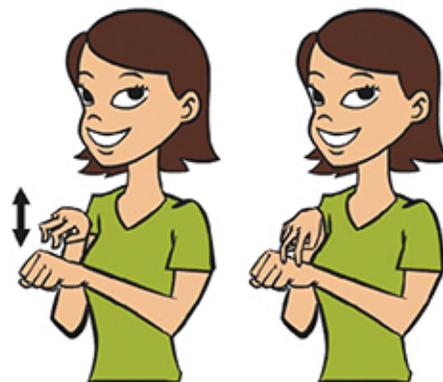
pumpkin



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potato



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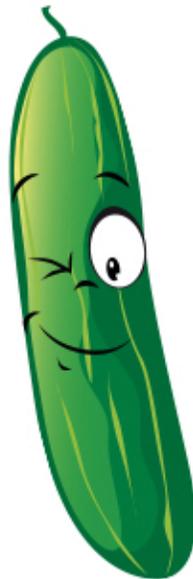


tomato



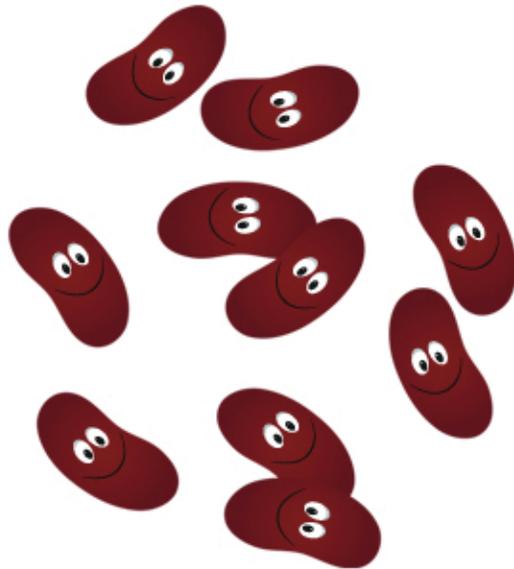
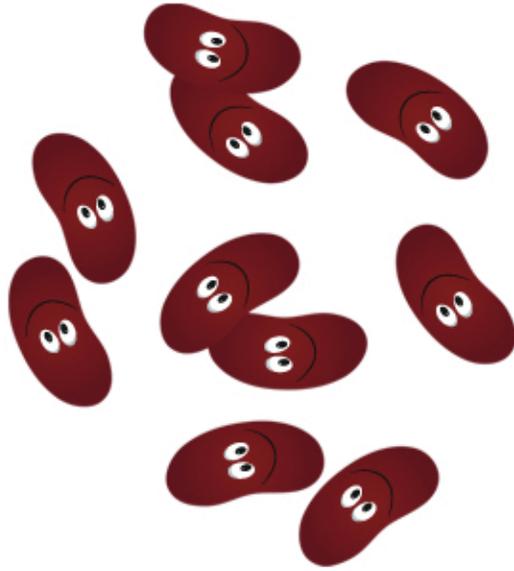
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cucumber



cucumber

bean



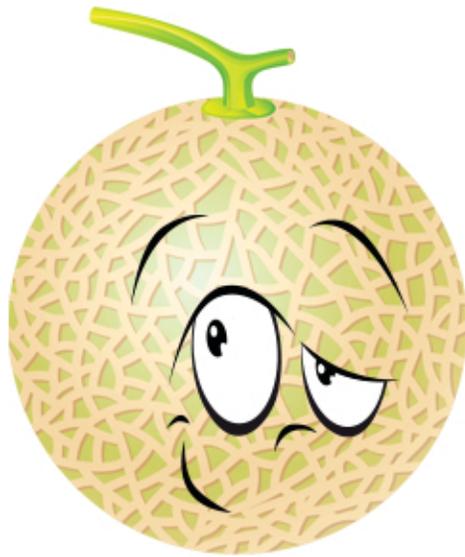
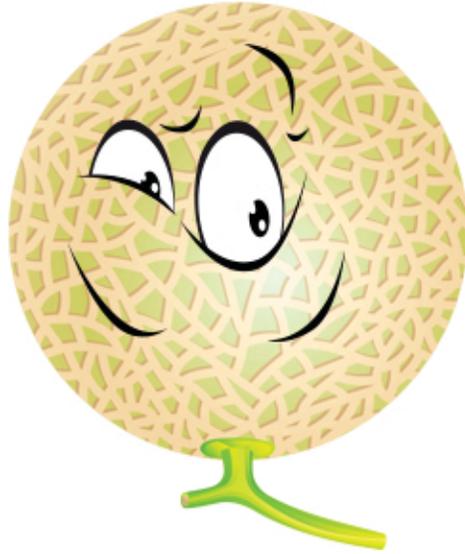
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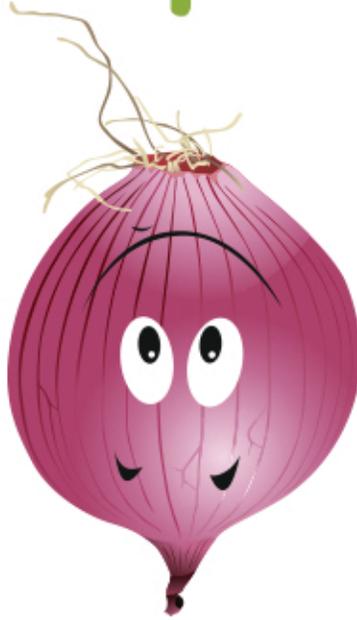
lettuce

melon



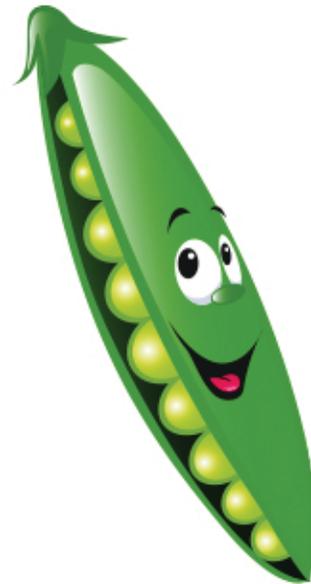
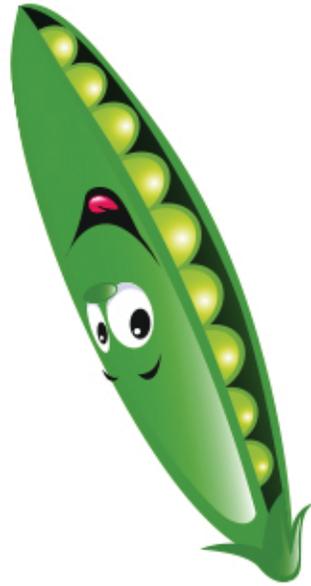
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onion

peas



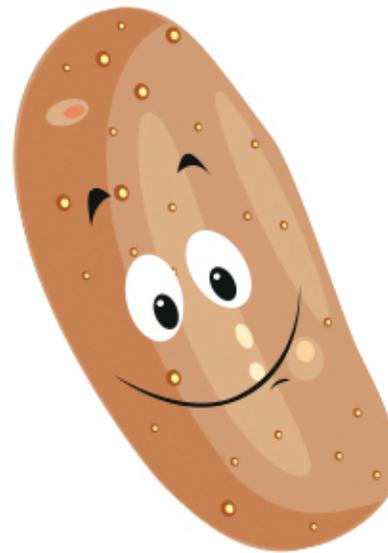
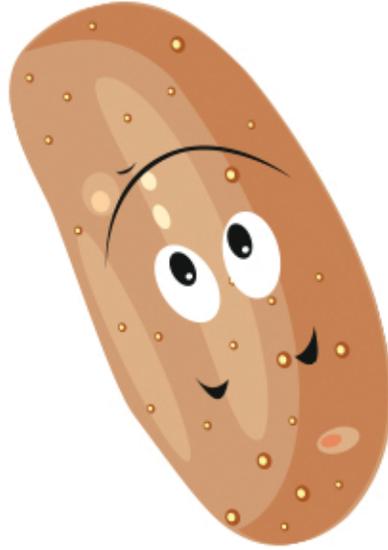
peas

pumpkin



pumpkin

potato



potato

tomato



tomato