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- To encourage communication.
- To assist the students understanding of keywords.
- To help teach the meaning of a word or idea.
- To give a visual clue to help the student remember the word.
- To slow down and simplify communication.
- To model and teach the use of signs that we wish the students to learn to use.

How should I use signs?

- Alongside speech always speak and sign.
- Slowly just sign the key or important words.
- Be very clear in your use of signs.

What signs should I use?

- Decide what are the important signs for the student and their regular routines.
- If you are introducing a new topic, or story etc, decide what signs you will need and check that you are signing them correctly