

Teacher's Guide



Ugandan Sign Language

For Preparatory school and Primary school 1-3

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Foreword

This is a teacher's guide to teach young children the Ugandan Sign Language. The aimed target audience are children of the age of 4 till 8. So this guide can be used in preparatory school and the first three classes of primary school (P1-P3). These children are young and are likely to pick up the signs easily.

This tool focuses on teaching words for objects in their direct surrounding. This guide will not provide any knowledge of the grammar, since the children are very young so simple words will be the main topic. There are three booklets of different sign categories included in this educational series. These signs can be used to play the games that are presented in the teacher's guide. By using games it is easier to remember the signs and the colourful drawings will catch their attention.

Amber Boven

For more information about the Ugandan sign language you could contact Sam Lutalo. He received his BA in Deaf Studies from the University of Central Lancashire first class. And he is writing a reference grammar of Ugandan Sign Language.

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Ugandan deaf community and sign language

Sometimes it has been said that deaf people are dumb or even that their deafness is a curse.

It is very important to understand this is NOT true.

Deaf people are everywhere and deafness is natural.

They are not different from other people except for the fact they cannot hear.

All other things non-deaf people can do, they can do as well, because they are not less intelligent by any means.

They only use a different way of communicating.

Instead of using auditory language they use a visual/manual language.

The facial expression is also very important to show emotions.

In 1995 the Ugandan Sign Language became officially acknowledged in Uganda, which makes them the first country in the world to have done this.

After them more countries followed such as Australia, Brazil, New Zealand and a few European countries.

Though nowadays deaf people are still being ignored by the Ugandan society.

Most of the time deaf children do not go to school because most schools do not have the proper tools to include them to the lessons.

As far as I know there is only one school for deaf children in Uganda.

It is located in Kampala and they try to help the deaf children.

They teach children from the age of 5 till 17 years old.

And those children are first assessed by ENT doctors in the government referral hospital.

At the moment there are 200 deaf children attending the school of which 60% were born deaf.

The other 40% became deaf later on due to accidents or untreated diseases.

The children will learn sign language as their mother tongue and English as a foreign language.

The school also offers primary education with pre-vocation skills in Carpentry, Tailoring, Home Sciences, and Agricultural Practice.

I think this is a great example to show all the possibilities deaf children have when they are given the chance to develop themselves.

It is important their family and the society accepts them and treats them equal to hearing people.

By introducing the hearing people to the sign language as well as the deaf people to the spoken English language the gap between hearing and deaf people will become smaller.

The more deaf people are accepted in the society the bigger chance they have of finding a job.

For schools it is important to keep the deaf children engaged in class.

If the teacher does not have the skills to teach them either the sign language or the English language, they could focus on teaching them other crafts, like sewing or cooking.

This way the child still develops himself and eventually he'll get the chance to make a living when he grows up.

It is the responsibility of the parents and the teachers of the child to prepare him to be helpful in the society.

As long as the children are offered a chance they will turn out to have the same opportunities as the hearing children.

Contact information of the school for the deaf in Kampala;



P.O.Box 16150, Kampala, Uganda.

Tel: +256 41 220882

+256 712 851741

+256 772 629862



Email: ugandadeaf@yahoo.com

Website: www.schoolforthe deaf.com

Teaching

The mirror

Equipment

A booklet of any categories

Game form

As a teacher stand in front of the class and present the pictures.

This can be used for large groups of children at once, as long as they can see the pictures.

To play

Show the picture to the children and let them mimic it.

It does not have to be the correct sign, but it should be how they think it would be represented best.

After that you teach them the correct sign and they have to repeat it.

You carry on with the other words from the booklet, until you have done the whole category.

Guess

Equipment

A set of cards of the words to sign

Game form

Divide the kids in teams of 4-6 children.

To play

The teams play by turn and try to guess as many signs as possible.

If it is a team's turn, the children have to choose a captain.

The captain gets half of the cards and the rest of the team gets the other half.

Make sure both sides have a picture of each word.

Then the captain starts to mimic the first word on his cards.

He is not allowed to speak and the rest of his team has to pick the card of the right sign.

They have to pick one within ten seconds and if they pick the wrong card they lose their turn.

If they pick the right card they get one point.

The team with the most points in the end wins.

Recap

Hints

Equipment

A booklet of any of the categories

Game form

The children stand in the classroom, and the presenter stands in front of them.

To play

Pick of the children and show him the picture of the category, hidden from the other children.

He must mimic the word and the children have to reply with the correct sign.

Then another child takes his place.

Hide it

Equipment

A set of cards of the words to sign, or something related to the signs.
For example something in all colours of the known colour signs.
A blanket or box to put the objects in.

Game form

Put all objects underneath the blanket or in the box and have the kids sit around it in a circle.
This game can be played with as many children as you want, depending on how many objects you have.

To play

The kids take turns to take an object or card from underneath the blanket or out of the box.

They have to make the correct sign to keep the object.

But when they sign the wrong word they put all their gained objects back underneath the blanket or in the box and they are not allowed to stay in the game anymore.

You win if you are the last person in the game or the one with the most objects in the end.

Speed dating

Equipment

A set of cards of the words to sign

Game form

The kids walk free through the classroom to find each other.

This can be used for as many children as the cards you have.

You can also mix up the categories, so some children will have a card about animals and others about colours etc.

To play

Give each child one card with a word and make sure there are 2 cards of each word.

The children have to mimic their word and find the child with the same word.

When they find their partner they should come to you for the correct sign.

The pair to find each other first has won, second pair gets the second place etc.

You can also use this as a recap and forbid them to mimic, they're only allowed to use the sign.

Memory

Equipment

A set of cards of the words to sign.

Game form

This has to be played in small groups, you can also divide the children into pairs or teams.

You need at least two players, but a few more can work too.

To play

Place the cards on the table or floor with the pictures facing down.

One by one the children get to flip two cards.

If two cards are the same one has to make the correct sign.

If they are two different pictures or one makes the wrong sign, the cards have to be flipped down again and the next person takes the turn.

So if the player gets it right, he / she can take the cards and try to find another set.

The person who wins the most cards wins.

