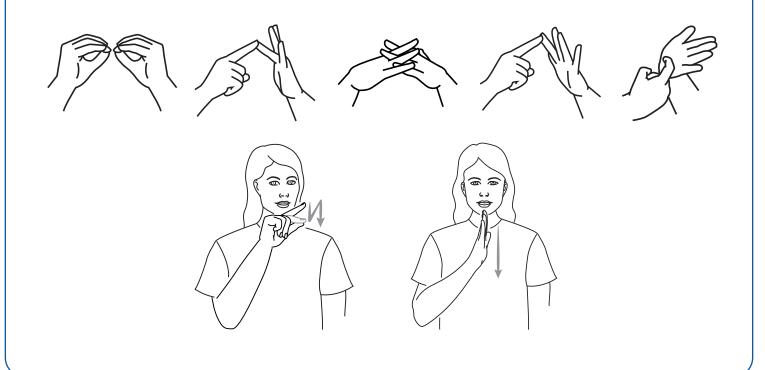


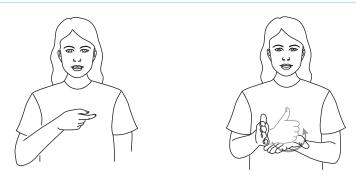
Key Word Sign Guide (Nationwide) for

Bowerbird Blues

by Aura Parker







I am a collector.





Always looking,

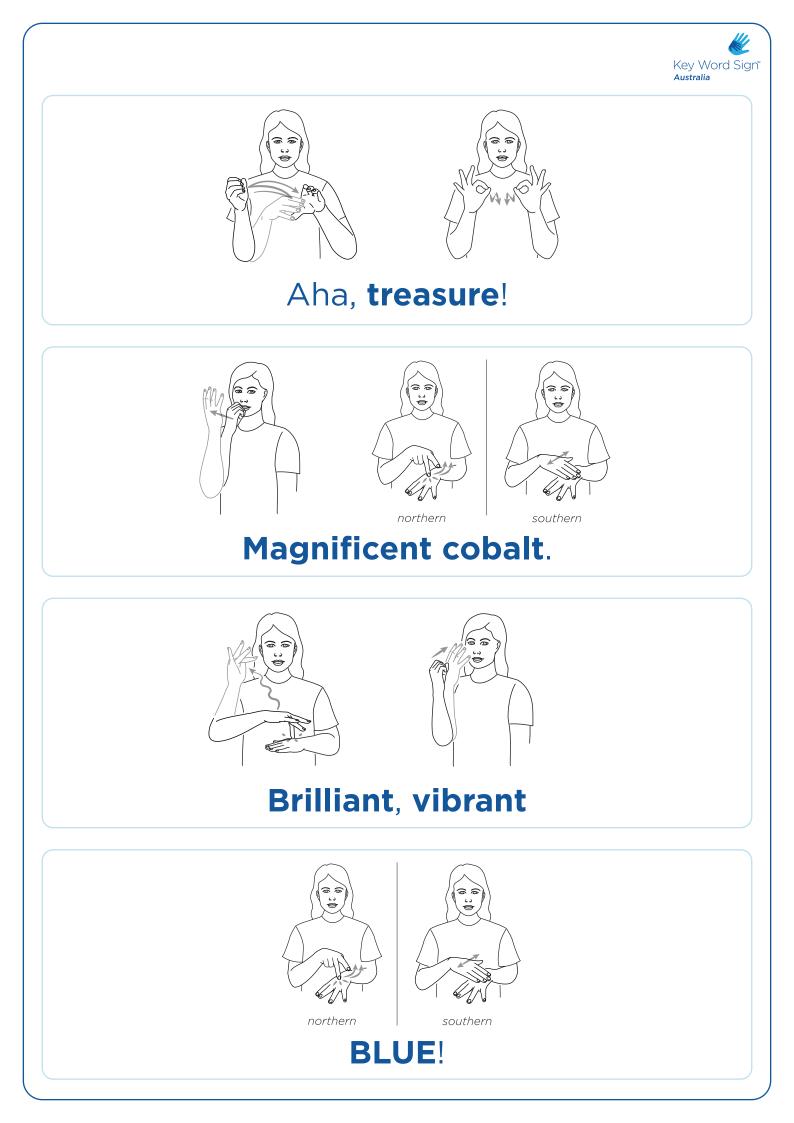


finding...



and **keeping**.







My belly is full, my wings are strong,



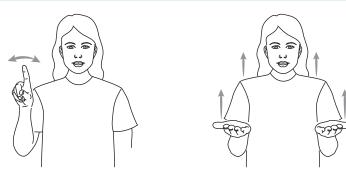


and my collection is growing.





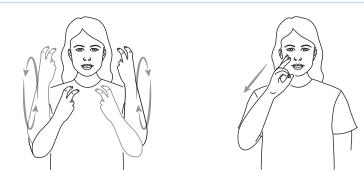
But something is missing.



What could it be?

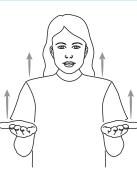




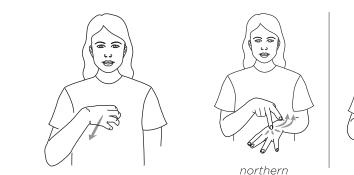


Searching, seeking.





Up above. Is it there?







More blue! That must be it!

Natural Gesture. Mime action of bird soaring upwards.





northern

.

Soaring up, up, up, into the blue!







Oh, how I love the sky...

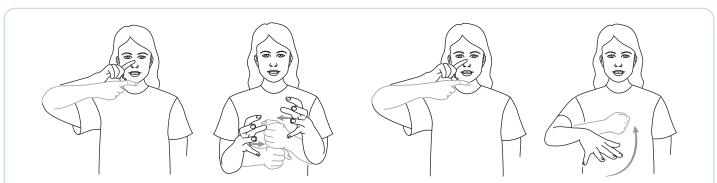
Natural Gesture. Mime action of bird soaring upwards.







and moving through the marvellous blue.

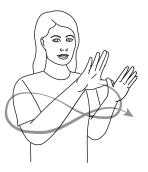


But I can't hold it. Can't grasp it.



Sliding, slipping through the air.





Free falling down, down, down.





Into wanting and wandering





Fluttering, fidgeting





in **all** this **grey**.







SPLASH! But it's cold!





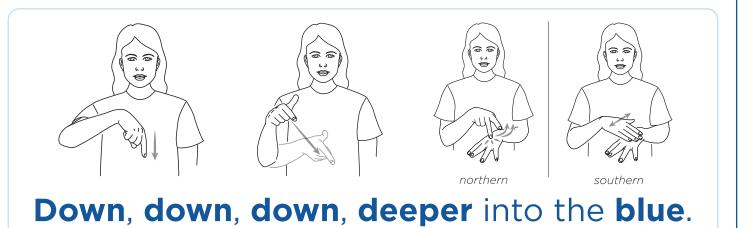


southerr





Diving, sinking.

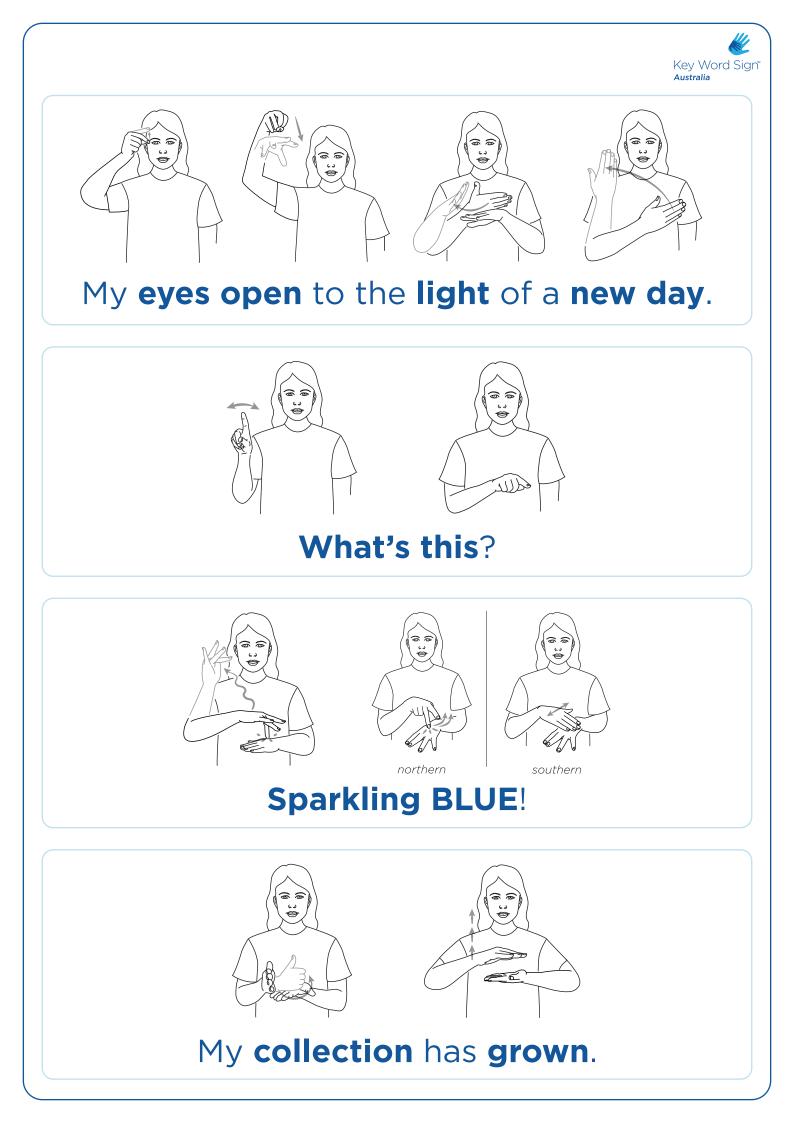


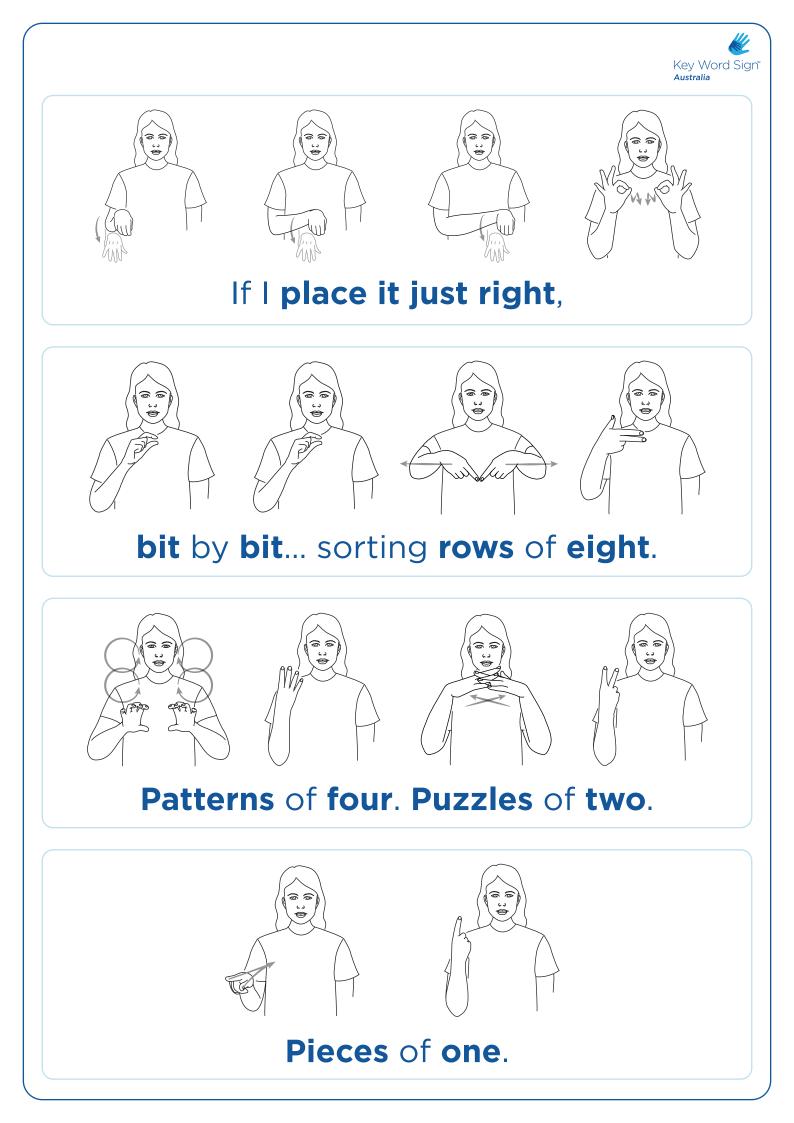


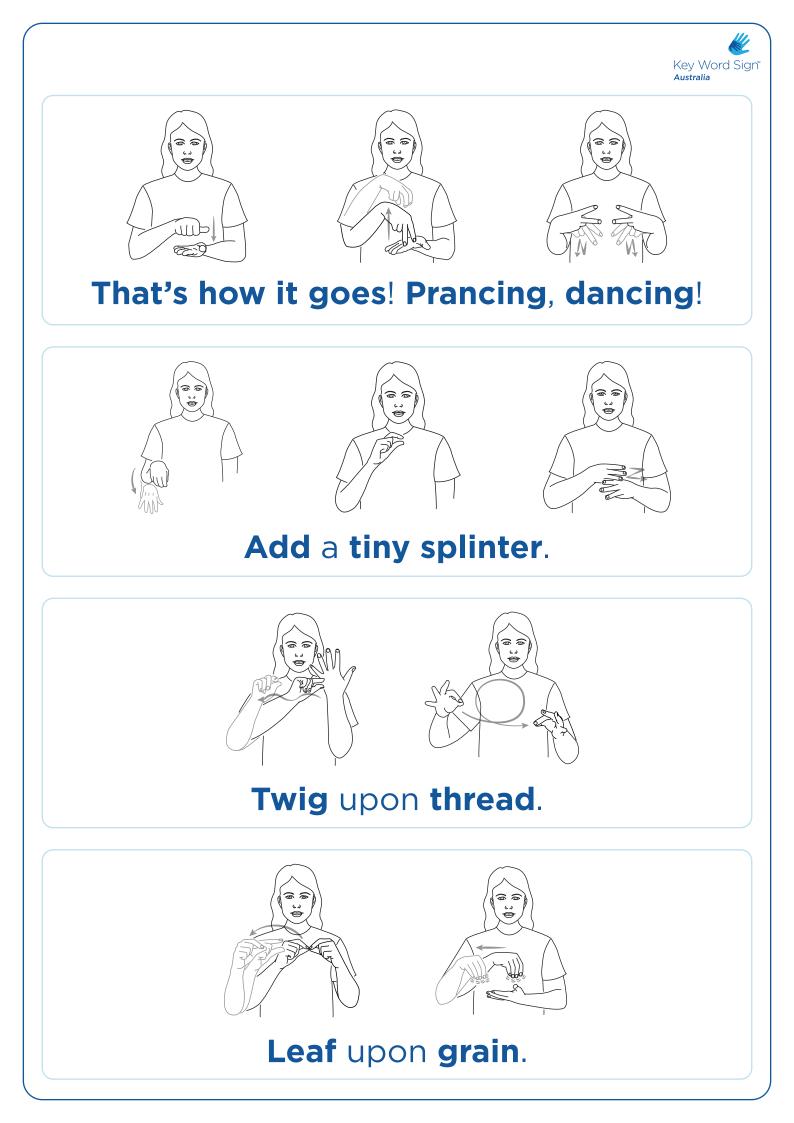




Will I ever find it?











Bibs and bobs building up, up, up!





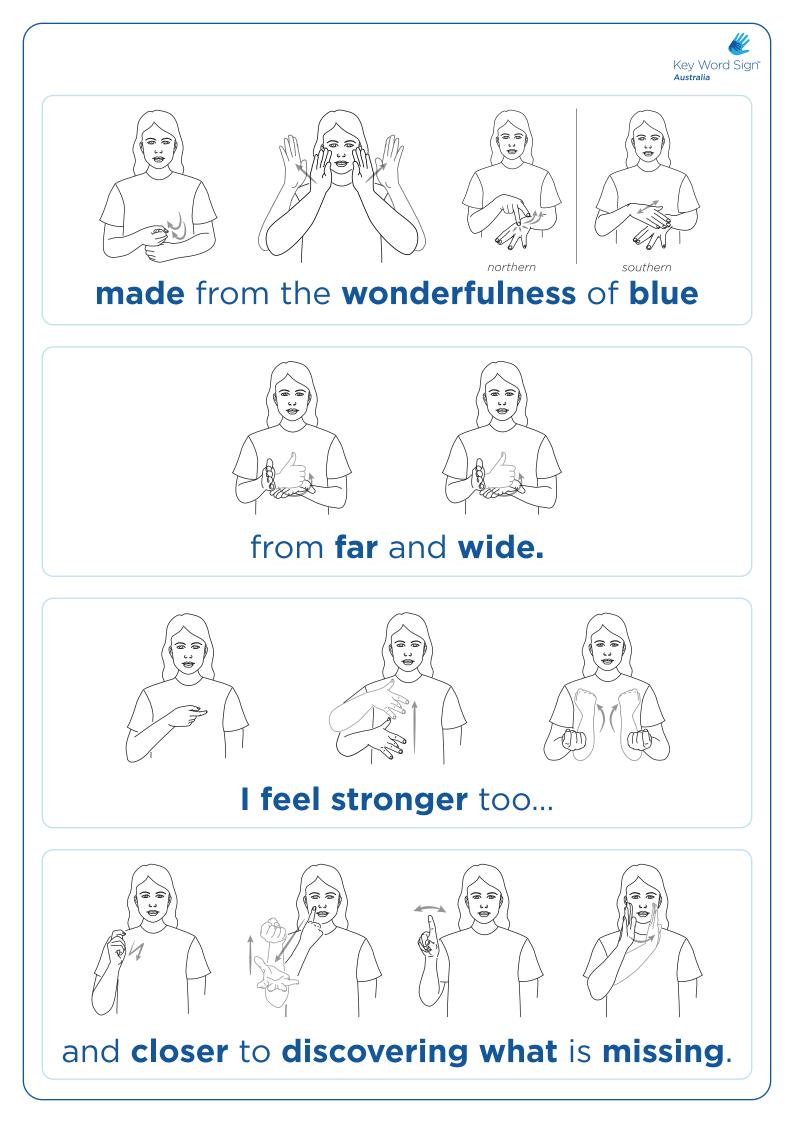
It grows higher and stronger.

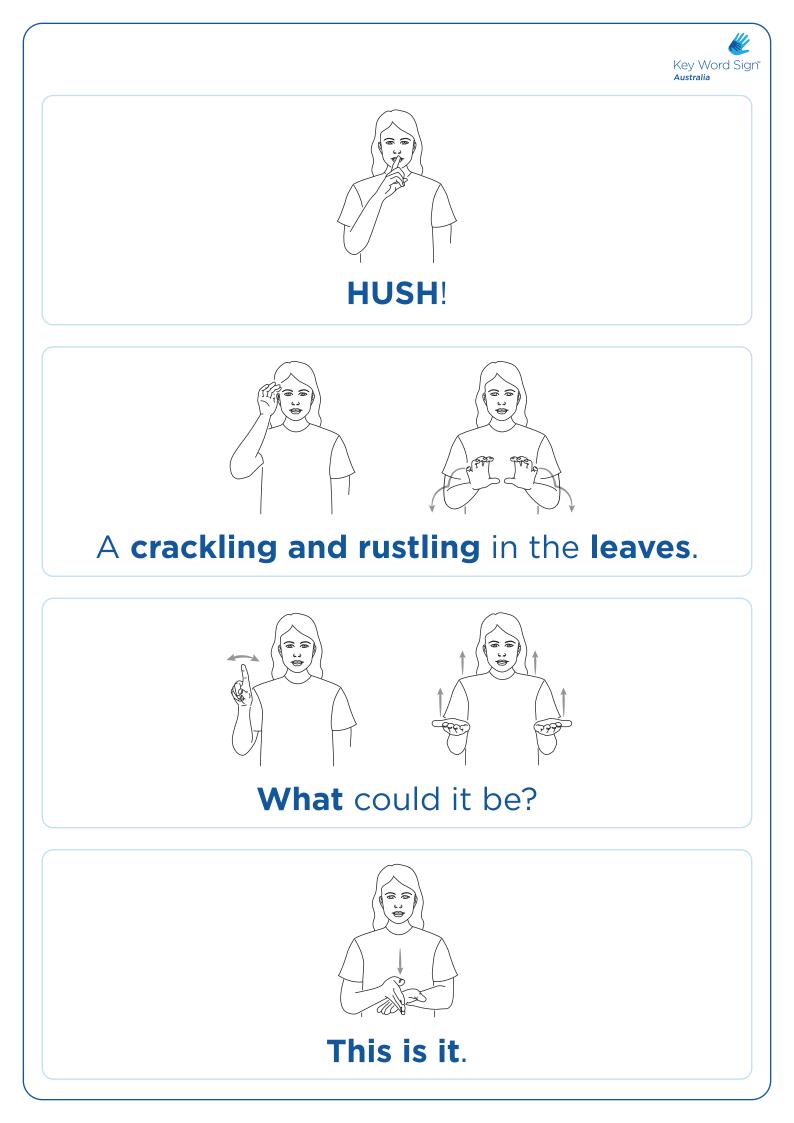


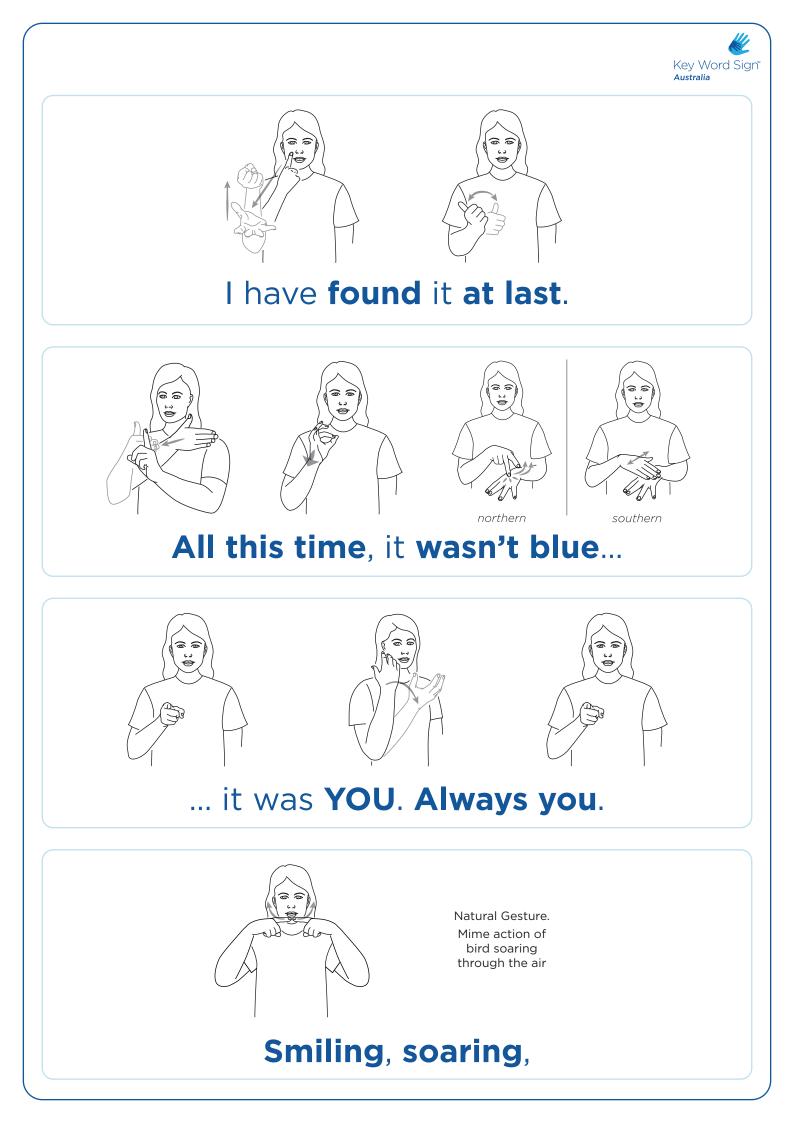


Weaving, tinkering.













Floating, feeling,





Sharing, nesting.

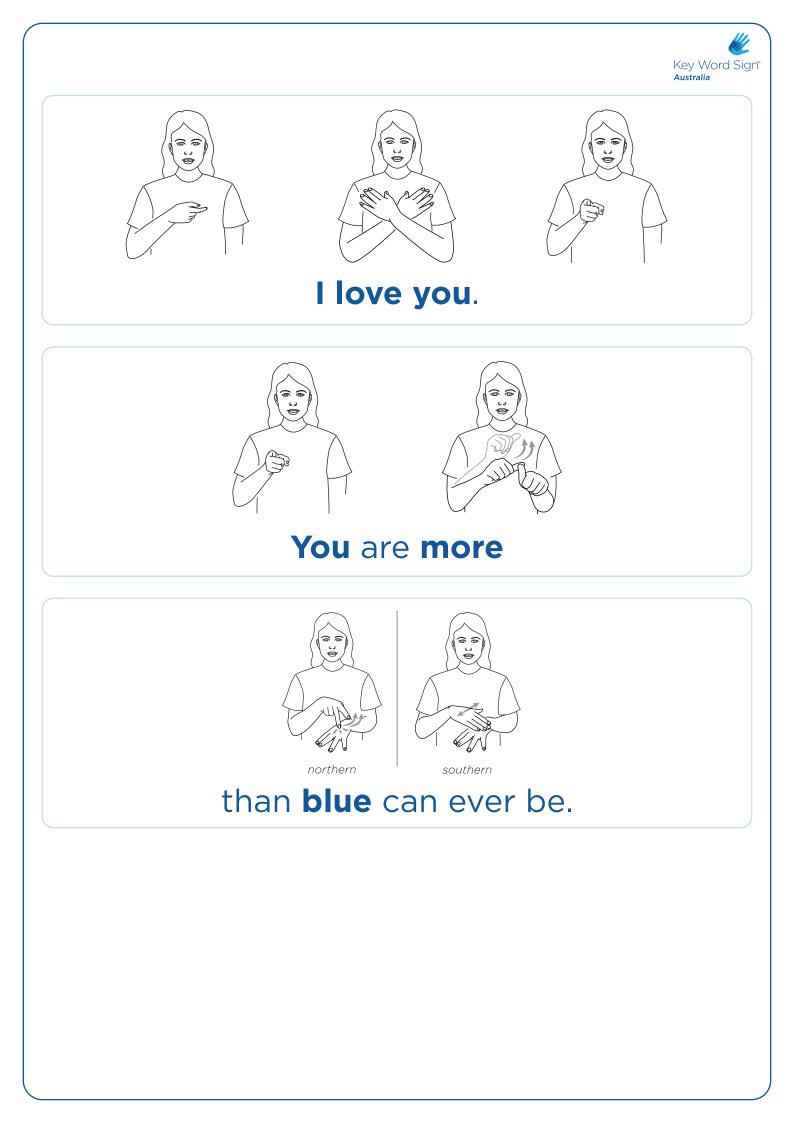


Cuddling, snuggling.





Loving, knowing how much





ABOVE, SKY (SKY)

Move open dominant hand in an arc above the head, from non-dominant to dominant side.



ADD, PLACE IT (PUT) Place dominant fingertips on ball of thumb, palm down, move forward opening hand and fingers. Move the sign to where you want to place the object.



ALL THIS TIME (UNTIL)

Extend index finger of non-dominant hand and hold at side of body, palm facing forward. Hold dominant flat hand in front of nondominant shoulder then move forward to meet back of index finger.



ALWAYS

Cup dominant hand and place blade of little finger on cheek, palm facing away from body. Roll hand forward from wrist while opening fingers slightly.



AT LAST (FINISHED) Extend dominant thumb, fingers closed. Rock hand formation from side to side several times.



BELLY (TUMMY) Place flat dominant hand in front of stomach, palm facing in. Tap twice.



BIT BY BIT (TINY) Hold dominant hand in front of body. Extend index finger and thumb, bringing them close together, but not touching.



BLUE, COBALT (NORTHERN) Extend index and middle fingers of dominant hand. Place non-dominant hand, palm down, in front of body. Flick middle finger of dominant hand

twice, finishing with palm toward body.

(NSW, Qld, ACT)



BLUE, COBALT (SOUTHERN)

Rub fingertips of open dominant hand up and down on back of non-dominant hand. (Vic, SA, WA, NT, Tas)



BLUES (SAD) Place edge of index finger of open dominant hand in

front of face. Move this hand formation down in front of face, with sad facial expression.

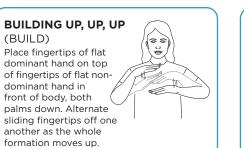






BRILLIANT / GLISTENING

(GLITTER) Place flat hands palm down, dominant hand above nondominant hand with the middle finger bent down to touch the middle of the back of the nondominant hand. Lift dominant hand up and away while moving hand in small sideways movements.





CAN'T

Extend index finger of dominant hand and rest on bridge of nose. Rotate wrist forwards and away to end with palm facing towards the face.

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CLOSER (SOON) Crook dominant index finger around thumb, and hold at shoulder height. Bend hand forward at wrist, twice.



COLD

Hold both arms bent, hands in fists. Move formation in quick, short sideways movements, several times.



COLLECT / COLLECTION / COLLECTOR

Hold non-dominant flat hand palm up in front of body. Rest blade of flat dominant hand on the non-dominant palm, and scoop fingertips around in a circular motion towards the body.



CRACKLING AND RUSTLING (LISTEN)

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



CUDDLING, SNUGGLING (HUG) Cross arms and place flat hands below shoulders, while rotating the upper body slightly.



DANCING Extend index and middle fingers, palms facing body. Move formation up and down in two short arcs.



DAY

Sweep open dominant hand, palm down or palm towards body, in an arc from waist height to shoulder height.



DEEPER Extend index finger and thumb of dominant hand,

dominant hand, other fingers closed. Hold in front of body, palm facing in. Move diagonally downwards in front of body.



DISCOVERING / FIND / FINDING / FOUND (FIND) Move dominant index finger forward from eye. Then spread dominant hand, palm up, and move hand up while closing fist.



DISTANCE (FAR) Extend index

finger and thumb of dominant hand. Start at waist and move in small arc forward and away from body.



DIVING (DIVE) Place flat palms together in front of body, fingers pointing up. Rotate hands forwards and down, like diving into water.



DOWN Point extended dominant index finger down. Move formation down (natural gesture).



EIGHT

Extend thumb, index and middle fingers of dominant hand, palm toward body.



EYES OPEN (AWAKE) Hold dominant index finger and thumb together at side of the eye, then separate (like the eye is being opened).



FALLING Natural gesture. Mime the action of a bird gently falling down through the sky.



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FEEL

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.



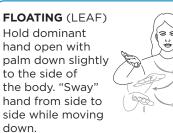
(RESTLESS) Hold flat non-dominant palm in front of body. Extend index and middle finger of dominant hand. Rest formation on palm, fingers pointing forwards, rock from side to side with agitation.



FINALLY

(FINISHED) Extend thumbs of both hands and hold palms facing in. Swing hands out while opening fingers. End with palms down.





FROST / ICY (ICE) Hold both hands at chest height with fingers spread and palms facing down. Pull all fingers back towards body, bending them at the second knuckle.



FLUTTERING Hold hands with

fingers spread in front of body, palms facing forwards. Simultaneously wriggle fingers and shake hands slightly from side to side as they move downwards.



FOUR

Extend dominant index, middle, ring and little finger, with fingers pointing up and palm towards body (natural gesture).



FULL (SATED) Hold open dominant hand, palm down, bent at third knuckles at chest height. Move formation up to rest under chin.



GASP!

(SURPRISE) Place palm of open dominant hand, fingers spread, on chest. Move hand away from body with emphasis.



Natural gesture. Mime action of bird gliding through the air.

hand in front of body, palm up. Touch finger tips and thumb of dominant hand and hold above palm. Move from wrist to fingers as fingertips are repeatedly brushed across thumb.

GRAIN (SEEDS) Hold non-dominant



GRASP / HOLD (TAKE) Hold dominant hand at waist height with palm down and fingers spread. Pull (hand back towards body whilst closing into a fist.



GREY

Place fingertips of open dominant hand on cheek. Move hand in small forward circles twice.



GROWING Hold flat hands in front of body, nondominant hand facing up, dominant hand facing down, with space inbetween. Incrementally move top hand higher and higher away from bottom hand.



HIGHER

Extend thumbs of both fisted hands. Place thumbtips together. Move dominant thumb up.



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HOLD

Close hands into fists in midline, dominant hand above nondominant.



HOPE / WISH

Wrap middle finger around index finger of both hands and hold at shoulder height. Move formations slightly forward with emphasis.



HUE (COLOUR) Close index finger onto thumb tip, rest of fingers spread. Rub tips of index and thumb formation along edge of extended nondominant index finger, several times.



HUSH! (QUIET) Extend dominant index finger and rest in front of lips (natural gesture).



I/ME

Point to self using extended dominant index finger. May also use flat hand with palm up (natural gesture).



IF ONLY (WISH) Wrap middle finger around index finger of both hands and hold at shoulder height. Move formations slightly forward with emphasis.



JUST RIGHT

(PERFECT) Form an "O" shape with the index fingers and thumbs of both hands, other fingers extended. Hold these formations at shoulder height in front of body and move forward twice with emphasis.



KEEPING (SAFE) Scoop blade of slightly cupped dominant hand, across open palm of non-dominant hand towards body.



KNOWING Tap tip of dominant thumb, palm forward, fingers closed, on side of forehead, twice.



LEAF

arcs.

Extend index finger and thumb on both hands and hold in front of body. Open then close index and thumb of dominant hands while making an arc in the shape of a leaf.



LEAVES (BUSH) Place both slightly cupped hands, fingers spread, in front of body. Move hands apart and down insmall arcs.



LIGHT (SUN) Flick fingernails of dominant hand off ball of thumb while moving hand diagonally down from head height.







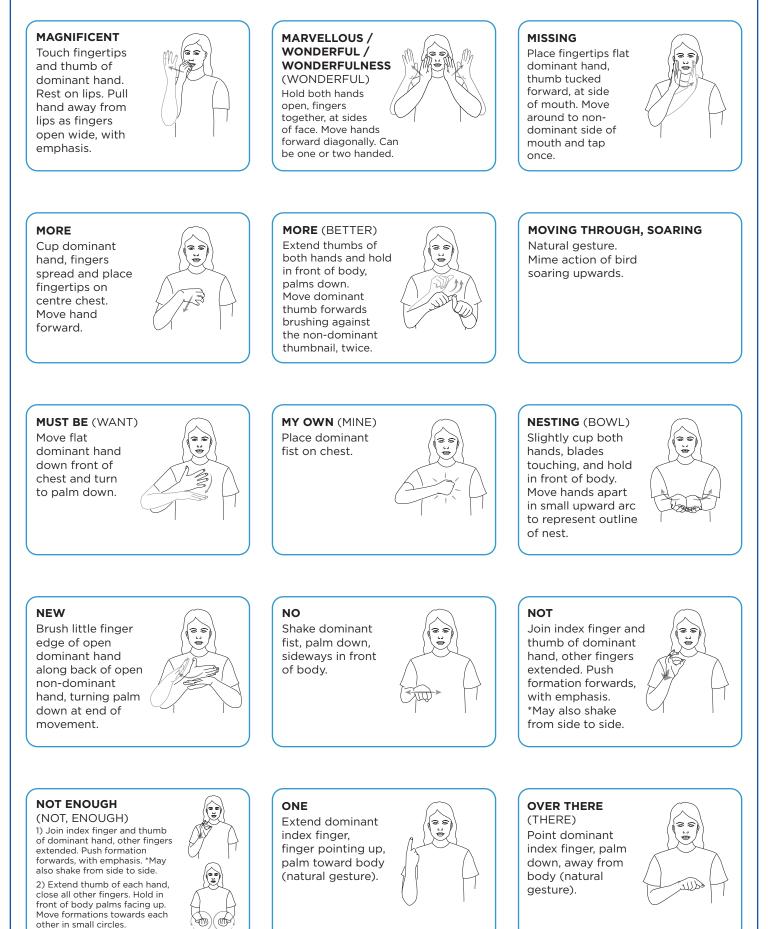
LOVE / LOVING Cross arms and place open hands on upper chest, palms on body.



MADE (MAKE) Make fists with both hands. Bounce dominant fist on nondominant, while making small circles towards body.



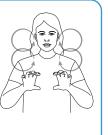




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PATTERNS

Place both slightly cupped hands. fingers spread, in front of body with palms facing out. Simulatenously move hands in upwards circular movements, twice.



PEEPING (PEEK) Hold fists on nondominant side of body, at eye and chest level. Simultaneously move hands from non-dominant to dominant side.



PEERING, SEEKING

(WATCH) Extend index and middle finger of dominant hand, other fingers closed. Place formation at corner of eye and move forward, once.



PERHAPS (MAYBE)

Spread dominant hand and hold in front of body, palm down. Twist this formation at wrist, twice.



PIECE

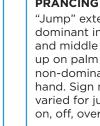
Extend index and middle fingers of dominant hand, tuck thumb at base of middle finger. Move formation down palm of nondominant hand in straight line.



PIECES (CHOOSE) Extend dominant index finger and thumb. Close index finger onto thumb while moving hand towards body.

PLACE Hold open dominant hand, palm down, fingers spread, in front of body. Move hand gently from side to side

or in small circle.



PRANCING (JUMP) "Jump" extended dominant index and middle fingers up on palm of open non-dominant hand. Sign may be varied for jumping on, off, over etc.



PUZZLES

Place dominant fingertips on thumb. Bounce this formation on and off palm of nondominant hand as though removing/ replacing puzzle pieces.



ROWS (LINE) Extend index fingers of both hands, palms facing down. Begin in the centre and move both hands to the side, tracing a line.



SCAVENGING (COLLECT)

Hold non-dominant flat hand palm up in front of body. Rest blade of flat dominant hand on the non-dominant palm, and scoop fingertips around in a circular motion towards the body.



SCRAP (SMALL) Place hands open with palms facing and move them together (or use natural gesture appropriate to the context).



SEA Place non-dominant hand in front of body, palm down. Move dominant hand in wave-like motion above nondominant hand,

elbow to fingertips.

SHARING (SHARE) Place open non-

dominant hand in front of body, palm up. Place edge of flat dominant hand along non dominant palm fingers forward. then reverse direction so fingertips point to body.



SINKING (LEAF) Hold dominant hand open with palm down slightly to the side of the body. "Sway" hand from side to side while moving down.



SKERRICK, TINY

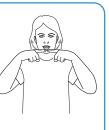
(TINY) Hold dominant hand in front of body. Extend index finger and thumb, bringing them close together, but not touching.



SLIDING, SLIPPING Natural gesture. Mime the action of a bird gently falling down through the sky.



SMILING (SMILE) Use natural gesture and facial expression. Mime drawing a smile on your face using two index fingers.



SNATCHING (TAKE) Hold dominant hand at waist height with palm down and fingers spread. Pull hand back towards body whilst

closing into a fist.



SOMETHING (SOME) Hold dominant fingertips on thumb tip. Move thumb across each fingertip, while moving hand forward and to the side.



SPLASH! Hold both fists in front of chest, palms facing body. Move towards face as fingers are released.

SPLINTER (WOOD) Extend index, middle

and fourth fingers of each hand. Place dominant hand on top of non-dominant, palms facing opposite sides. Move dominant hand in a back and forth sawing movement, several times.



STRONG / STRONGER Hold both hands in fists in front of body at about waist height. Bring both fists up toward body in strong movement.



SWOOPING

Natural gesture. Mime action of a bird swooping through the air.

THAT MUST BE IT! / THAT'S HOW IT **GOES!** (CORRECT)

Extend thumb of dominant fist, palm down, and hold above open non-dominant hand, palm up, at waist height. Move dominant formation onto nondominant hand



THIS IS IT (TRUE) Open both hands. Move blade of open dominant hand down onto palm of nondominant hand in front of body.



THREAD (SEW) Join index finger and thumb in each hand, other fingers spread. Move dominant hand towards non dominant and scoop upwards in an arc. Repeat several times.



TINKERING (FIX)

Bend fingers of both hands at third knuckle and close onto thumbs. Place fingertips of hands together and rotate dominant formation back and forth in small movements.



TREASURE (TREASURE, SPECIAL)

1) Hold non-dominant hand in C shape. Flick open dominant fingers as they move towards non-dominant hand. Repeat several times

2) Form an "O" shape with the index fingers and thumbs of both hands, other fingers extended. Hold these formations at shoulder height in front of body and move forward twice with emphasis.

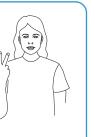


TWIG (BRANCH) Hold non-dominant hand at shoulder height, fingers spreads and palm facing body. Use index finger and thumb of dominant to trace the shape of a wavy branch moving away from non-dominant hand.



тwo

Extend dominant index and middle fingers, fingers pointing up, hold fingers slightly apart, palm toward body (natural gesture).



UP

Point extended dominant index finger up. Move formation up (natural gesture).



VIBRANT (BRIGHT) Touch dominant fingertips to thumb and hold in front of face, palm facing in. Open and spread fingers as hand moves forward slightly. *May use two hands.



WANDERING (WANDER)

Extend index and middle finger of dominant hand, crook slightly. Move forwards away from body is slight zig-zag pattern.



WANTING (WANT) Move flat dominant hand down front of chest and turn to palm down.



WEAVING (WEAVE) Spread fingers of both hands, tuck thumbs in. Hold in front of body, palms facing in. Move hands towards each other so fingers overlap, nondominant hand in front.



Point dominant index finger, palm away from body, at shoulder height. Move formation at wrist from side to side, twice.



WHAT COULD IT BE? (WHAT, DON'T KNOW)

1) Point dominant index finger, palm away from body, at shoulder height. Move formation at wrist from side to side, twice.

2) Raise flat hands, palms up and hold at chest height. Lift shoulders up in a shrug.



WILL I EVER (WHEN) Place dominant fingertips on cheek and tap in sequence quickly.



WINGS (FLY) Extend flat hands at side of body and simultaneously flap up and down.



YOU

Point extended dominant index finger towards person or people. May also use flat hand with palm up (natural gesture).





Parker, A. (2023). *Bowerbird Blues*. Scholastic Australia ISBN: 978-1-76026-960-9

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