

American Sign Language Resources

American Sign Language – Helpful Websites

<http://lifeprint.com/> - free online self-study lessons including an **ASL** dictionary, signing videos, a printable **sign language** alphabet chart (fingerspelling), etc.

<http://www.signingsavvy.com/> - Signing Savvy is a sign language dictionary containing several thousand high resolution videos of American Sign Language (ASL) signs, fingerspelled words, and other common signs used within the United States and Canada.

www.aslpro.com – ASL Pro is a completely free online ASL educational resource website featuring over 11000 ASL Signs.

American Sign Language Courses – Lower Mainland

Burnaby Online (part of the Burnaby School District) offers two online ASL course options. These are available free of charge for current high school students. Students follow the same British Columbia program of studies and must meet the same achievement standards as students in traditional classrooms. The Intro ASL course will be accessed online with embedded video. Each student will receive a textbook and DVD to use as a reference. The student will need access to a webcam for this online ASL course. Assignments and projects will be submitted online and will be assessed by Burnaby Online teaching staff, all members of the BC College of Teachers. Adult learners can register for course for a registration fee of approximately \$500.

For more information: www.burnabyonline.ca

Course Outlines:

<http://online.sd41.bc.ca/Courses/Secondary/ModernLanguages.aspx>

Vancouver Community College

ASL and Deaf Studies (Part-time studies)

Vancouver Community College offers part-time evening classes in ASL (American Sign Language). Evening classes are offered from September to June. There is also a summer session which runs for six weeks for the months of July and August. All of our ASL instructors are native signers and active members of the Deaf community.

For more information

For complete details and fee information in the upcoming term(s), call the Registrar's Office at 604.443.8400, Program Advising at 604.443.8453, or the Department of ASL & Deaf Studies at 604.871.7000, ext. 7443 (voicemail) or 604.871.7444 (TTY). A brochure for the upcoming term can be mailed to you upon request.

Website: http://www.vcc.ca/programs-courses/detail.cfm?div_id=10&prog_id=136

Douglas College – Continuing Studies

Starting with an orientation to the basics of visual and gestural communication, this program will help you become increasingly fluent in ASL. Based in the principles and techniques of language acquisition, this program is intended for non-Deaf individuals who want to learn to communicate using this visual-gestural language. Delivered as an immersion experience, all classes are conducted completely in ASL by our experienced ASL instructors. This program is offered entirely on a part-time basis, with classes held on evenings and weekends. The textbook used for all courses in the ASL Prep series is *Vista Signing Naturally*, which can be ordered from the Douglas College Bookstore at the Coquitlam campus. Courses all build on the content learned in the previous course, so you are not able to take a course until you have completed the prerequisite.

For more information visit: <http://www.douglascollege.ca/programs-courses/continuing-education/child-family-community/american-sign-language>

University of British Columbia – Continuing Studies

Learn to engage in simple conversations in American Sign Language, as you immerse yourself in beginner level vocabulary and grammar. Courses may be offered at UBC Point Grey campus and downtown at UBC Robson Square campus.

For more information or to register online click the link below or contact program staff at 604.822.0800. <http://cstudies.ubc.ca/languages/sign-language.html>

Family Network of Deaf Children

The Family Network of Deaf Children (FNDC) provides a listing of ASL classes on their website. They also host a Family Immersion program each summer. More info available at: www.fndc.ca

Deaf Children's Society

Deaf Children's Society offers a number of American Sign programs and services.

Community Sign Language Classes - The Deaf Children's Society (DCS) often works in partnership with the Burnaby Continuing Education Centre to provide night school classes in basic and intermediate classes in ASL. For more information about these courses, contact the DCS office: 604 525 6056.

DCS will also offer, for a fee, onsite sign language classes for companies and organizations wishing to better serve the deaf community and/or who employ deaf individuals. Contact the main office to find out more.

In-home Sign Language Classes - Sign language classes are provided to the family and extended family of children accessing services through the Deaf Children's Society in the family home or at the child's community daycare or preschool. These fun and enjoyable lessons are offered on a weekly or bi-weekly basis according to the family's needs. Our qualified deaf instructors will provide sign lessons that meet the day-to-day communicative needs of the family, with basic sign language vocabulary to start, working up to sentences and stories. Sign language instruction is also available on an Outreach basis, where available.

Preschool Sign Classes - Usually, once a week, at the Deaf Children's Society preschool, parents and extended family members and friends may join a 90 minute sign language class that reflects the themes occurring in the preschool that week. These classes offer basic vocabulary and dialogue skills through games, interaction and direct instruction. Check our event schedule for times and dates.

For more information contact the DCS office: 604 525 6056
Website: www.deafchildren.bc.ca

Provincial Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Provincial Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Family and Community Services (FCS) program offers a supportive-rich environment for learning and skill development. Core Programs and Services include:

- **Language and Literacy Services** (ASL and English) in 1:1 and class settings. Families connect day-to-day experiences with language learning.
- **Family and Parent Services** support strengths and skills in 1:1 and group settings while encouraging parents to find solutions to parenting questions and balance in their personal lives.
- **Children and Youth Services** provide a supportive environment for growth and learning through youth mentoring, youth transition and topic-focused groups.
- **Community Awareness and Development** provides education and community opportunities to youth, families and service providers who work with deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind clients.

- **Family Immersion Experience** is filled with ASL classes; topic-specific workshops; deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind role models/mentors; and resources.

Visit their website and click on Calendar of Events to learn more about current programs and learning opportunities.

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/pdhhs/community_services.htm?WT.svl=Body

Or contact one of the **Family and Community Services Coordinators** at 604 660-1800 (Voice), 604 660-1807 (TTY), 604 660-1859 (Fax), Email:

pdhhs@gov.bc.ca

Additional Resources

Local school district Continuing Education programs – local school districts (ie Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminister) may offer evening sign language classes as part of their continuing education programs. Please check local course listings to determine if an ASL class is being offered in your area. Check back regularly as new courses are offered each semester.

Signing Time DVD's – Engaging and educational DVD's for toddlers, preschoolers and children (but adults can learn too by watching them!) that teach ASL signs through music, movement and fun. These DVD's are available to borrow at most local libraries as well as at the Deaf Children's Society Library.

The **Sunny Hill Education Resource Centre** contains many resources for parents, caregivers, teachers, professionals and anyone who has an interest in deafness, hearing loss, sign language as well as extensive resources related to various medical conditions and disabilities. The library is open Monday-Thursday and their resource catalogue is available online. Visit www.bcchildrens.ca/sherc, call 604-453-8335 or Toll free at 1-800-331-1533. Email: sherc@cw.bc.ca

Listing of Various BC Community Groups and Organizations

- BC Early Hearing Program - <http://www.phsa.ca/AgenciesAndServices/Services/BCEarlyHearing>
- BC Family Hearing Resource Society - www.bcfamilyhearing.com
- BC Hands & Voices - www.bchandsandvoices.com
- Canadian Deafblind Association BC – www.cdbabc.ca
- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHAA), BC Parent's Branch – www.chhparents.bc.ca

- Children's Hearing and Speech Centre of BC - www.childrenshearing.ca
- Deaf Children's Society – www.deafchildren.bc.ca
- Deaf Wellbeing Program - <http://deafwellbeing.vch.ca>
- Family Network for Deaf Children – www.fndc.ca
- Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/pdhhs/programs.htm>
- Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WIDHH) – www.widhh.com
- West Coast Assoc. of Visual Language Interpreters (WAVLI) – www.wavli.com