Introduction to Sign Language

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Teacher for Deaf/Hard of Hearing &
Nationally Certified Sign Language Interpreter
Essential Signs Of Daily Living

Basic work signs... for use by:

CO-WORKERS
MANAGERS
ADMINISTRATORS
VOLUNTEERS
COUNSELORS
TEACHERS
PARENTS
FRIENDS
RELATIVES
NEIGHBORS
NURSES
POLICEMEN
FIREMEN
Introductions

- Who are you?
- Where are you from?
- What job do you do?
- With what population do you work mostly?
- What sign language training have you had?
- What do you hope to gain?/Why are you taking this workshop?

- A little about me...
Marcella Masters Harper, Ed.S./CSC

- **Degrees & Certificates**
  - Ed.S., Georgia Southern University
  - MA – Drama (CUA), MA Deaf Ed (UNF)
  - RID – CSC
  - Teaching: Deaf, Sped, SS, English, ASL

- **Work**
  - ToDHH – 2 years, Fannin; 25 years, Glynn;
    - Also VSU, FSDB, Kendall Elementary @ Gallaudet
  - Interpreter – community, college, VRS (Sorenson)
  - Sign Language Teacher – h.s., community
Foreword

- What this is not...
- What it is....
- A few notes before we begin...
4 Parameters of Sign Language

- **M**
  - Movement
- **O**
  - Orientation of Palm
- **P**
  - Placement on the Body
- **S**
  - Shape of the Sign
Is Sign Language Universal?

- **American Sign Language (ASL)**
  - Roots in French Sign, brought to America 1816
  - Passed on primarily via residential schools
  - Unique grammar structure (not English)
  - Changes over time

- **Signed Exact English (SEE)**
  - Manually coded English
  - Not native to deaf people
  - Used in some, primarily mainstreamed educational settings
  - Many initialized signs
A word about dominance...

- Any southpaws?
- Use dominant hand for movement.
Today’s Agenda:

- 100 basic vocabulary
  - Focus on 4 parameters
- Numbers 1-12
- Manual alphabet (A-Z)
- Questions?
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ASL  ABC  song

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMQHd1UBkel
no
not
now
open
play
please
right
same
see
show
sick/ill
slow
(multiple meanings)
sorry  stay  stop  talk  telephone  tell  thank you

time  today  tomorrow  try  understand  wait
four
five
six
seven
eight
nine
ten
eleven
twelve
Questions?