

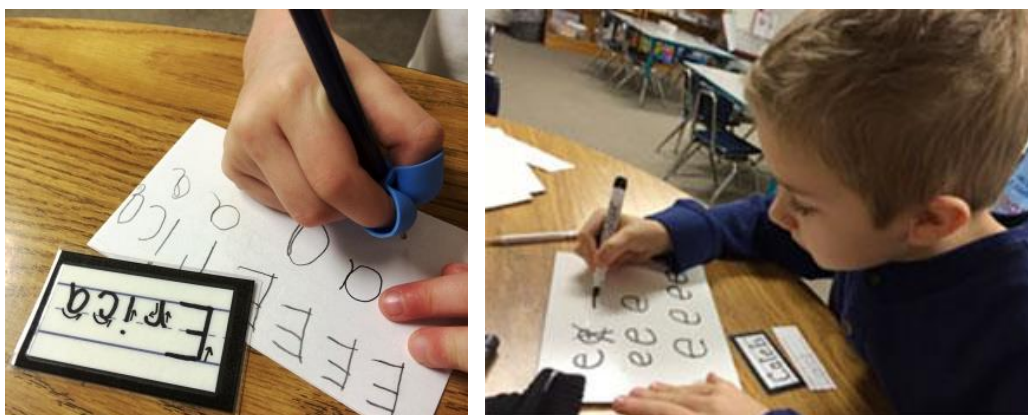
# 10 Reasons to Teach Fingerspelling in Kindergarten

Take Advantage of How the Brain Learns Best



**1. Fingerspelling helps the brain remember letters and sounds:** It becomes the memory hook to ABC/Phonics mastery. Fingerspelling will enhance the effectiveness of any ABC/Phonics program.

*How did you teach your brain to fingerspell every letter in your name?*



**2. Fingerspelling develops fine motor dexterity** for efficient pencil grip and handwriting proficiency.



**3. For English language learners, fingerspelling provides an additional pathway to learning success** with letters, sounds, and high-frequency "heart words." (Many English language learners master fingerspelling faster than their English-speaking classmates.)

***Wow! You learned to sing, fingerspell, and read another new word!***



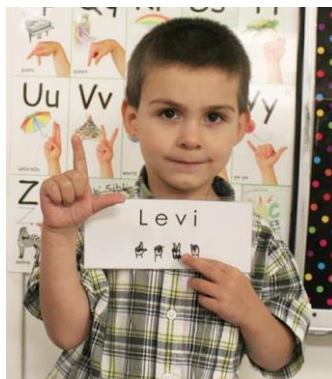
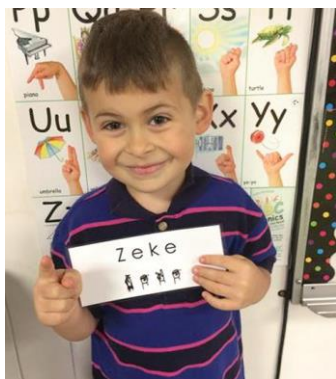
**4. While teaching fingerspelling, thoughtful educators develop metacognition and a growth mindset:** We teach children to focus, work hard, set goals, and think about their learning.

***Look closely, keep practicing, and you can teach your brain to remember!***

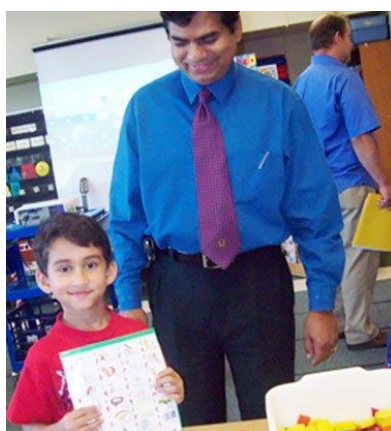


**5. The strategies used to teach fingerspell are supported by decades of visual learning research.** Teachers and children have crystal-clear, achievable learning targets. Teachers provide specific feedback, children learn to assess their progress, and mastery is acknowledged and celebrated! (Read John Hattie's book, *Visible Learning for Teachers*)





**6. Fingerspelling provides additional support for children who are highly kinesthetic learners:** All children are having the experience of learning a new language together while building stamina for writing workshop.



***The more you practice, the better you get!***

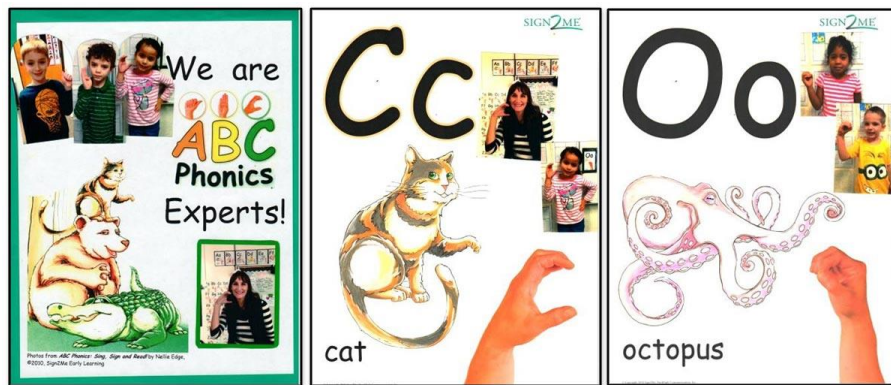
**7. Learning to fingerspell provides a family literacy experience,** multiplying our teaching effectiveness. Free online ASL video clips and ABC support for at-home practice are available. Let parents know that fingerspelling not only builds hand-eye coordination for writing but also develops strength and dexterity for athletics and playing a musical instrument.

***Parents as Partners multiplies our teaching effectiveness.***



8. **Fingerspelling teaches young children a new language.** American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most commonly used language in the United States.

*Childhood is for language.* Lewis Thomas



9. **Learning to fingerspell builds children's pride in mastering a new communication skill.** It teaches children to focus, observe closely, work hard, and develop visual motor integration.

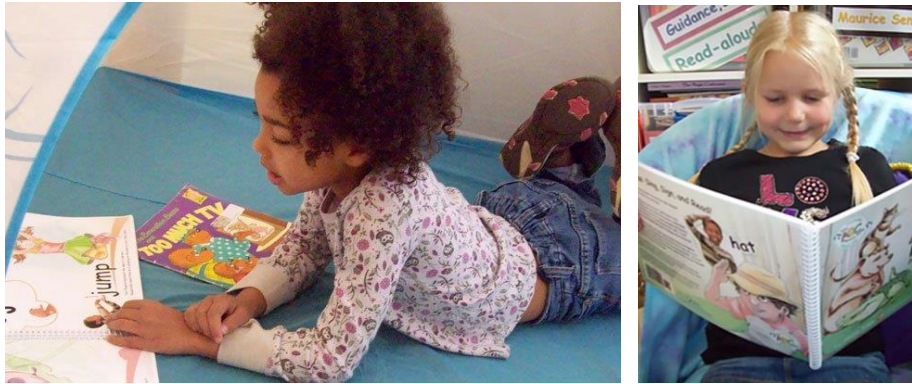
*You worked hard, and now you're an expert at fingerspelling every letter from A to Z. You must feel proud of becoming an expert at fingerspelling!*



10. **Fluency with fingerspelling provides a memory hook to phonics during Writing Workshop** while children are learning how to encode sounds to print.

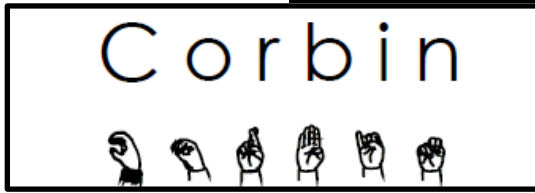
When children fingerspell, it triggers the letter/sound memory. It also enhances the memory for high-frequency "heart words."

***Wow! How did you teach your brain to remember that?***



Enjoy Resources at [www.NellieEdge.com/ABC Phonics](http://www.NellieEdge.com/ABC%20Phonics) and on TpT

- **Learn to Fingerspell:** View FREE instructional videos from Sign2Me
- **See glimpses of fingerspelling for ABC and Phonics learners** with FREE teacher supports
- **See document:** How to Make Name/Fingerspelling Cards



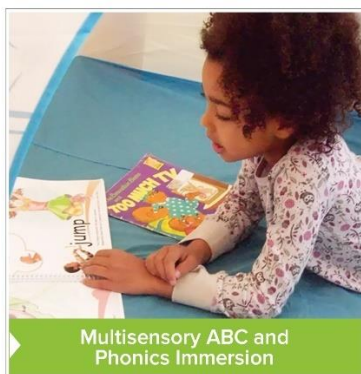
- **Discover how fingerspelling** is a part of kindergarten-friendly handwriting: peruse [the Handwriting page](#)
- **FREE eBook:** [What Is Your Research Base for Nellie Edge Professional Development?](#)
- ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read! resources on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Email questions to Sign2Me.com

Take advantage of how the brain learns best!

Learning to fingerspell is a great practicum project for university credit options with Nellie Edge Online Seminars.



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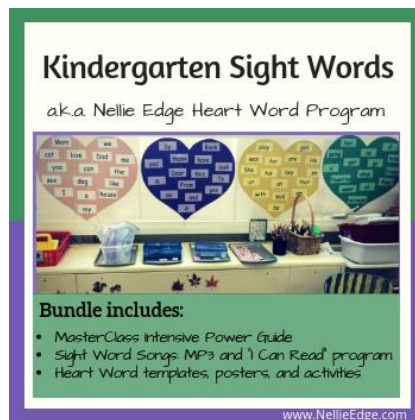
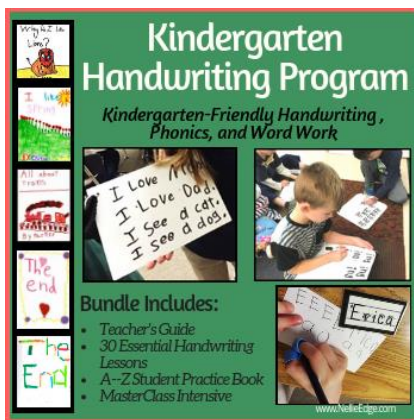


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## TPT Resources That Incorporate Fingerspelling:



- [Sight Word Play Dough Mats Bundle](#)
- [Kindergarten Handwriting Program](#)
- [Nellie Edge "Heart Word" Program](#)