

Baby

Welcome to our new Baby, Toddler and Preschooler sections of Playtimes. Each issue will have articles and information relevant to these important developmental stages in your child's life.

Australian Baby Hands – Jackie Durnin

Every year there are new or improved methods of communicating and teaching children and babies that we learn about from the media. The latest is baby signing. For those of you up with American movies, it was popularised in 'Meet the Fockers'.

Australian Baby Hands has taken this concept of teaching your baby to sign but utilising Auslan, (Australian Sign Language) a recognised National signing language, used by the Deaf and people with disabilities to communicate.

This book, written by Jackie Durnin, is designed to introduce parents to Auslan and the opportunity to communicate with their baby is very appealing. By spending time with your baby and taking every opportunity to bond with your child you may encourage them to sign their needs or thoughts to you. Jackie clearly recognises that patience and time are required for this process and has researched the subject well. She also encourages families to learn more about Auslan as a means to communicate with others within the community and as a second language.

The introduction and methods are very simple to follow with the photos of some basic and popular signs making it a useful resource tool. Jackie makes no promises but every baby and parent can benefit from loving attention and time spent together getting to know each other.

'... Australian Baby Hands has been written as a fun way to learn to communicate with your baby while learning the basics of a wonderful language. Any input from you into your baby's early development years can only be of benefit...' Page 14 - Australian Baby Hands

Australian Baby Hands can be purchased for \$29.95 from the website www.australianbabyhands.com or is available at all major bookstores.

