

# Let's Sign BSL Science Vocabulary

## Introduction

This collection of British Sign Language (BSL) vocabulary for Science has been developed to meet the needs of teachers and pupils at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 and contains 721 signs in line drawings and corresponding colour versions in separate folders.

Approximately 540 are 'science' related with 180 'general everyday' signs added to provide some basic examples for the main concepts in the schemes of work and units for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3, in a single resource. A fuller source of sign vocabulary and regional variations are available in the Let's Sign dictionaries and graphics packs to further support this wide subject area.



This resource is intended to offer support for teachers to deliver the National Curriculum programme of study in line with the exemplar scheme that is aimed at offering opportunities for children to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of important scientific ideas, processes and skills and relate these to everyday experiences;
- learn about ways of thinking and of finding out about and communicating ideas;
- explore values and attitudes through science.

Such work requires the language and ability to communicate the ideas and concepts involved, and we hope that this collection of graphics, used in conjunction with the Let's Sign Science dictionary (also available in Kindle format), provide a useful reference for all those who use sign language to achieve this end.

This is not a definitive list of science terms but we believe that this pack contains a good basic core vocabulary that demonstrates the visually structured nature of BSL and how this can be brought to scientific concepts.

Our materials are intended to support BSL training and development in the hands of native Deaf sign language users.

BSL resources and materials for this important curriculum subject are still scant, with no standardisation for educational use. It is not easy to find science signs that have consensus of use from the sources available, and in practice, signs in education vary widely, with teachers left to invent signs on the spot when necessary.

The Let's Sign Science reference dictionary and graphics include more than one version of some signs to give choice if there is no clear consensus, or to suit different contexts, or to suit individual student needs at different stages and includes some regional variations.

Fingerspelling also plays an important role in familiarising learners with the words that match the signs as would be required for use in examinations and future reading and study.

A range of curriculum matched bite-sized teaching resources for Science are also being developed, and the Let's Sign Series of dictionaries, guides and other supportive teaching materials are available from <http://www.DeafBooks.co.uk>