sign names and instructions for signing

general terms

yes  fist shakes up and down and represents the head nodding
no  forefinger and middle finger snap close on the thumb
more  both hands (palms facing person) come together and tap together several times
eat  one hand with fingers together places food in the mouth
please  open hand circles over the heart/chest to indicate pleasure
thank you  hand moves out and forward away from chin
love/hug  hands hug something over the chest (x crossed) to indicate the concept of love
like  middle finger to thumb; move hand from chest out
all done  hands shake outward to indicate that something is over (finished)
baby  a natural gesture for indicating holding a baby
see  V handshape; hand moves to the front in a general sign to express the concept of seeing
help  one hand lifts the other hand up to represent the concept of assisting (helping)
arm  left arm up and right hand moves upward to indicate arm
other side  thumb up and hand clenched, moves from left to right as in hailing a car ride
read  one hand open palm outward and index/middle fingers move quickly left right
sing  one arm extended; other hand palm out/thumb up back and forth twice
march  both hands, fingers extended downward moving in a marching motion
clap  hands clap as in applaud
me  point to self with index finger to chest
welcome  hand brings something towards the body show that someone being invited to come forth
kiss  fingertips touch side of mouth and then cheek
happy  movement of the hand up the chest represents that a person's spirits are high
sad  outspread fingers move down in front of face to show features of face drooping
hi/hello  flat hand moves from top of forehead outward
I  sign the letter "i"
friends  index fingers both hands looped together back and forth
angry  open bent fingers both hands looped together back and forth

objects

ball  hands are holding onto a ball
mother  fingers of the five handshape is wiggled with the thumb by the side of the chin
father  fingers of the five handshape is wiggled with the thumb on the forehead
book  palms together, open and shut
mountain  two fists, one knocks on top of the other followed by the hands indicating the side of a mountain
doll  bent index finger placed on the nose and pulled downward
hat  pat head twice
bed  hand represents a pillow against which the head is resting
can/bottle  palm of one hand upward; other in circle as if holding a can; sit bottle in palm

necessary terms

diaper  index and middle finger together move down on both sides twice
potty  thumb stuck between index and middle finger and shaken
change  fists on top of one another and then moved above/below
wet  both hands turned upward with thumbs quickly touching other fingers
full/dirty  fingers wiggle under chin indicate food falling from one's mouth; or dirty diapers
tired  hands are placed on the chest, moved downward drooping along with the shoulders
stop  one palm up/flat; other palm sideways moves downward and hits the other
hungry  claw hand from throat moving downward as if food flowing into stomach
pacifier  thumb hand from throat moving downward as if food flowing into stomach

colors

English/Spanish

green/verde  index and middle fingers above thumb; rest of hand closer; shake twice
red/rojo  stroke the lips two times with the tip of your index finger
yellow/amarillo  right thumb and pinkie extended while other fingers are closed; shake sideways
blue/azul  thumb tucked and other fingers straight up palm outwards; move sideways
foods

cheese bring both hands together; rotate your right hand back and forth
milk open/close a fist as if squeezing an object
cracker right fist moves twice against the left elbow
cereal the hands mimic the act of eating cereal from a bowl
ice cream appear to be holding a cone and licking it twice
drink/juice hand moves upward as if holding a cup and tilts back into mouth/J letter with little finger
celery "C" sign from side is brought to the mouth
banana peal the right index finger with the left hand
apple fist of right hand with thumb out and rub against the cheek
water three middle fingers are spread to form “W” and touched to under lips
eggs both hands, index/middle fingers together, meet at tips and move downward
butter index/middle fingers together right hand brushes middle of left hand
popcorn index fingers on both hands move upwards quickly three times
toast V handshape touches one side of the hand and then the other
peanut butter thumbnail roof of mouth outward; add sign for “butter” from above

animals

elephant trunk of an elephant is moved in front of the face
bird thumb and forefinger mimic the action of a bird’s beak
cow “yellow” sign to side of head and moved back and forth
bear arms/hands cross and scratch chest
duck index and middle finger to mouth and open/close twice
fish movement of hand swishing mimicking fish tail
cat fingers pulling to side of face mimic whiskers
butterfly thumbs lock and fingers flutter to mimic the wings of a butterfly flying
rabbit index and middle finger up and hopping in front of face or ears on both sides of face
pig hand flaps under the chin food dripping from pig’s mouth; similar to “dirty” sign
tiger bent fingers on both hands are pulled across face
bee index and thumb pinched together hit cheek and then brush aside the “bee”
frog tongue is stuck out twice
monkey sign mimics a monkey scratching itself on both side of body
dog hand pats the side and then snaps the fingers OR tongue sticks out panting
hippo “yellow” shape on both hands opens and closes to show big mouth
snake index and middle fingers bent and slither forward to replicate movement
frog hand in front of nose with index and middle sticking out and moving quickly twice
ant left arm extended; fingers on other hand crawl down the long arm
crocodile both arms move like the mouth of a crocodile twice
ape both hands pound chest

for video of each sign go to Google, type “signing savvy”—signingsavvy.com; newest site with video illustrations of signs