

## ABSTRACT

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Title: INCREASING LANGUAGE FOR COMMUNICATION IN CHILDREN WITH ASD USING SIGN LANGUAGE  
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This proposal discusses the influence of American Sign Language (ASL) in use of therapy treatment for children with language disorders and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The potential effect of using sign language to increase receptive and expressive language in children with ASD was studied through a case study research design across 4 participants. The participants were assessed on the increase in receptive knowledge of select vocabulary and the impact on increasing self-initiated responses and requests, thus ultimately increasing expressive language. A positive correlation between the use of sign language and a reduction in the type and level of prompts needed for understanding spoken vocabulary of the communication partner was observed for all 4 participants. Some participants additionally verbally expressed the target vocabulary. Further empirical research is needed to determine the value of sign language compared to other visual support strategies, such as the use of pictures.