

**Ask the Expert-**  
**Best-Selling author, Monta Briant, answers your baby signing questions.**

**Q- Why has my baby stopped using signs?**

**A-** Let's say your baby has really been getting the hang of this signing thing, and then, out of the blue, he won't sign some things anymore. Or maybe he just stops signing altogether. What's going on-- has he forgotten how?

**Boooring!**

Have you mostly just been signing with daily routines, such as feeding and changing diapers? If so, it could be that your little one is getting bored with the same old routine. At first he was delighted to sign MORE for you between each bite of oatmeal, because it was his new trick, but now he's like, "OK Mom, I'm in the highchair, and you are holding a spoon full of cereal. I'm not your little trained monkey- just give me the cereal already!"

Try mixing it up a little, by using signs with a variety of exciting activities your baby enjoys. The MORE sign, for example, can also be used with MORE bubbles, MORE music, MORE swinging me around like and airplane. This will also help to clarify the true meaning of MORE, which babies sometimes confuse with the sign for FOOD if it's only used at mealtime.

**I don't feel good! :(**

Babies will sometimes sign less or even stop signing temporarily, if they are ill, teething, or adjusting to a change in routine. If you think about it, we all feel like saying and doing less when we don't feel well.

**I'm focusing on something new!**

When babies are working on a new skill such as crawling, pulling up and cruising, or walking, they will often regress in other areas, signing included. Just keep on using your signs, and introducing new ones, and when your baby starts signing again, you will be surprised to see that he not only remembers the old ones, but has an arsenal of new ones as well!

Just remember, signing is like riding a bike. Your baby will not forget the signs, but may sign less or put them aside almost completely now and then for one reason or another. Even when your baby is signing, he/she is still learning new signs by watching you.

Happy Signing!

*Monta Zelinsky Briant is the author of the best-selling Baby Sign Language Basics series of books and learning materials, and she also offers classes for parents and children all over San Diego.*

*She is also the owner of Baby Garten Studio in the historic South Park district of San Diego*

*To open a window into your babies mind and personality, please visit <http://www.babysignlanguagebasics.com> for information on class, online lessons, and home learning materials.*