

Baby Street Signs: Raising a Street Smart Baby Signer

An irreverent book pitch by

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THE PITCH

There is no book on the market like *Baby Street Signs: Raising a Street Smart Baby Signer* while there are over 32 ordinary Baby Signs book on the market.

Even though the market is ripe with regular Baby Signs books, our 220 page book is packed with over 150 street phrases, stories, HandShapes and vocabulary words is the Anti-Baby Signs book the world of babies is crying out for from misunderstood baby hands.

The Anti-Baby Signs market is rich for the entrapment of further riches by spinning the traditional Baby Signs niche on its bassinette. We will do that by building up where the other ordinary Baby Signs books leave off while provoking the traditional “Mother” and “Father” signs into street signs from the Real World like “Sugar Mamma” and “Pimp Daddy” while still honoring the strict American Sign Language structure of the original Baby Signs ideal.

If you and your baby have a sense of humor then *Baby Street Signs: Raising a Street Smart Baby* is the book to buy because we will teach the signs and concepts every baby should learn, but should never hope to need, while living life along the street.

Unlike any other ordinary Baby Signs book, our book will address a core problem of all Baby Signs books: There are three levels of learning for all Baby Signers. Books are forced to “split-the-baby” in order to deal with that problem of learning ability.

Too many books focus on learning single vocabulary words and not on groups of words that can grow with baby to help create phrases and concepts. Our book will teach “Street Signs” that will immediately be translated into three levels of compound complexity for each phrase in every chapter:

Level 1 – **Chillin’** – single word translations for babies 7 to 18 months.

Level 2 – **Thrillin’** – two to three word translations for babies 19 months to 2 years.

Level 3 – **Illin’** – four words and more translations for babies 2 years to Adult.

The Level One “single word” signs might seem inadequate when it comes to translating Street phrases, but facial tone and attitude will help get across the idea and that will be taught and made clear in the steps for creating the Baby Street Signs.

This method of teaching the signs immediately promises the book will never be “outgrown” by baby or parent and the level of complexity will entertain adults who may not have a baby but who want to become fluent in *Baby Street Signs!*

THE HOOK

The tone of *Baby Street Signs* will be popping and fresh while also being a book filled with accurate information and a strong factual and grammatical base in American Sign Language – but we’ll hide all that theory and strategy in a fun tone.

We will teach all the traditional Baby Signs – but we’ll spin it all with flavor and a twist of attitude and a heaping teaspoon of snark with honey. The book will be written for babies of all ages for the street signer in all of us.

We know “seeing is believing” and that “eyes are the key to learning a visual language” and we believe a DVD of the sentences bundled with our book could add great value to the learning experience and immensely help the fun process if the DVD is produced with the same wit and sense of fun we plan to include in the book.

If a DVD is not possible due to pricing and budgetary concerns, we understand and accept that decision.

We may decide to host and create images and videos on our American Sign Language Web Portal <http://HardcoreASL.com> where our readers can hang out and get updated information, ask us questions and provide feedback for future editions.

Baby Street Signs is based in hardcore American Sign Language’s grammar, structure and established conventions of a true foreign language study.

However, while we strongly believe this book should use American Sign Language as the structure for the sentence translations, we are also pragmatists in the marketplace. In our teaching experience, Hearing parents of Hearing babies and even Hearing parents of Deaf babies prefer their babies use English sentence structure with American Sign Language signs.

That mixed-method of teaching and learning uses Pidgin Signed English (PSE) as a bridge between hardcore ASL and pure English. Our Detailed Table of Contents uses American Sign Language sentence translations but if you think the book will be easier to read or it will sell better with PSE translations instead of ASL translations, we can easily modify the book to resolve any marketplace concerns.

The overall tone of the book will be formal in the teaching and “Street Smart” in the phrases and translations. The conflict between the formal information and the slang of the street will provide a reading dynamic that is both gassy and gassed!

THE COMPETITION

Baby Street Signs: Raising a Street Smart Baby has no competition which gives us the ultimate competitive edge! Doing an Amazon.com search on “Baby Signs” returns the following, and slightly silly, glut of traditional Baby Signs products fighting for shelf space and drowning mind share in the marketplace:

[Books](#) (32)

[DVD](#) (6)

[Video](#) (5)

[Home & Garden](#) (3)

[Outdoor Living](#) (1)

[Sports & Outdoors](#) (1)

[Gourmet Food](#) (1)

[Health & Personal Care \(Beta\)](#) (1)

[zShops](#)

An Amazon.com search on “Baby Street Signs” returns the following: “We found no results that closely match your search for: ‘Baby Street Signs’” and there you have our reason for being – we create and fill the niche at the same time.

THE MARKET

The new market establishing itself in the traditional market can always be a tricky one to navigate but, as will be the case with *Baby Street Signs: Raising a Street Smart Baby*, when you hit the right spot in the soft core of fun learning you can ring up a tremendously successful niche just like the *Airplane* movies of the 1980’s chided the *Airport* movies of the 1970’s; just like *Saturday Night Live* has been spinning real life and hard news on its ear for a quarter of a century; just like the *Dummies* book series have poked fun at the tone and teaching of traditional technical manuals from the safety of a niche within a niche while also proving how the right brand of learning can earn millions in the marketplace.

In our teaching American Sign Language and traditional Baby Signs we are sensing people are getting burned out on the same old Baby Signs style book because all those books are similar with identical vocabulary and philosophies for teaching: You read one ordinary Baby Signs book and you’ve read them all.

Baby Street Signs is just the antidote for re-invigorating the baby signing brand of book and our book will compliment and refresh any current Baby Signs title that may already be in your catalogue.

THE AUTHORS

David W. Boles, M.F.A. is co-author of *Hand Jive: American Sign Language for Real Life* to be published by Barnes and Noble New York in the Fall of 2006. More information is available online at <http://BolesBooks.com>

David is also the polymathic author of “Windows 95 Communication and Online Secrets” for IDG Books Worldwide and his periodicals work include c|net’s “Builder.com,” “Windows Magazine” and “Boot.” He served as the East Coast Editor for “Eyepiece” – the Official Publication of the Guild of British Cinematographers.

David is a member of the graduate school of Public Health faculty at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and he has taught World and Dramatic Literature at New Jersey Institute of Technology and Theatre and Forensic Speech at Rutgers University-Newark.

Other teaching credits include New York University, Fordham University, Columbia University, the College of New Rochelle and Saint Peter’s College. He has many years of teaching Freshman composition, Critical Writing, and Advanced Research Skills. David has also taught American Sign Language at New NYU. David also recently served a Visiting Professorship with the University of California, Davis Program in Sports Medicine.

His scholarly research paper, *Creating Aristotelian Irrevocable Change in Tourists Touching Down at Newark Liberty International Airport* was accepted by the Sheffield Hallam University School of Sport and Leisure Management’s conference concerning *Tourism & Performance: Scripts, Stages and Stories* in the United Kingdom in 2005.

David’s B.A. in English is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his M.F.A. is from Columbia University in the City of New York where he earned a terminal degree in Playwriting. He was a Shubert Organization/Presidential Scholar during his entire tenure at Columbia. His work as an award-winning Playwright has been seen on national tour in 16 states and 27 cities.

A complete C.V./Resume and list of Teaching Credits are available on request. You may find more narrative biographic details online here: <http://BolesBooks.com/boles.html> or here: <http://boles.com>

Janna M. Sweenie, M.A.

Janna is co-author of *Hand Jive: American Sign Language for Real Life* to be published by Barnes and Noble New York in the Fall of 2006. More information is available online at <http://BolesBooks.com> Janna was born Deaf in Council Bluffs, Iowa where she then attended the Iowa School for the Deaf until high school graduation. Her B.A. in Psychology is from Lehman College in the Bronx where she was one of the first Deaf graduates of that City University of New York institution.

Janna's degree in Deafness Rehabilitation is from New York University. Janna is the doyenne of the ASL program at NYU. For the past 14 years at NYU she has taught six ASL courses a year from levels 1 to 4.

Over 10,000 of her students have been taught the "Hardcore ASL" method and her students have gone on to use their signing skill working as interpreters, doctors, performers and therapists.

Janna has taught ASL at Montclair State University and she serves as an instructor for the Juilliard Interpreter Training Program and as an advisor for the Theatre Development Fund's interpreted Broadway productions.

Broadway credits include *Phantom of the Opera*, *Hamlet*, *42nd Street*, *Wonderful Town*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Flower Drum Song*. As a performer and teacher, Janna has worked with and advised Cyndi Lauper and Marlee Matlin and Governor Pataki and former New York Mayor Rudolph Guiliani.

After the 9/11 tragedy Janna was deeply involved in *Project Liberty* where she helped the Deaf and Disabled who worked in the World Trade Center come to terms with their losses in that awful watershed event.

Janna presently works full time as a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor for the state of New York Department of Education. Janna's full CV is available upon request and a deeper biographical narrative may be found here: <http://www.nyu.edu/classes/sweenie/>

THE DETAILED TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who Needs This Book?

6 pages

Part I: Flingin' Fingers

2 pages

Chapter 1: Puttin' da Real on da Deal

16 pages

Before we get into tossing out the signs we need to set up a few foul lines first to explain how to get into *Baby Street Signs* if this is the only book on Baby Signing the reader purchased.

What is Baby Street Signin'

When to Cowboy Up and Lasso Down

Signs Baby is Ready for Street Signing

Gaze

Pointing

Crying

Inattention

How Baby Street Signs Came to Be

Ordinary Baby Signing

Baby Street Signing

Levels of Complexity

Same Sign, Different Idea

Paint Your Face with Expression

American Sign Langue

Baby Street Signs vs. American Sign Language

ASL-Free Zone

Home Signs vs. Made Up Signs vs. Da Right Way

Good Stuff in Baby Street Signin'

Quicker Learning

Fun at Home and in da Street

Badass Baby

Are you lookin' at me?

Yeah, I'm lookin' at you!

Talk to da Baby Hand

Scopin' da Body Language

Talking Beyond da Hand

Chapter 2: Gang Signs are HandShapes

20 pages

HandShapes are how Baby Street Signs are best learned. HandShapes make learning a real hands-on experience.

- HandShape Meaning
 - da Palm
 - da Fist
 - da Fingers
- Alphabet HandShapes
 - A-Z
- Number HandShapes
 - 1-10
- Special HandShapes
 - da Tines
 - da Rock
 - da Hi-Karate Chop

Chapter 3: Breakin' da Beats

20 pages

It's easy to get started with Baby Street Signs. In this chapter we will give you some exercises and to get the signs moving.

- Preppin' Up da Street
 - Here, There, All Over
 - Facial Bits
 - Torso Grammar
 - Directing Time and Space
 - Moving wif a Look
- Playin' da Mirror with Signs
 - Imitation Flatters
 - Follow Me Down
 - Looking Up And Around
- Usin' da World Around
 - Sounds Are Hip
 - Music Can Hop
 - People Are Samples
- Markin' da Days
 - Signin' in da Morning
 - Afternoon Signing in the Glow
 - Signin' in da Twilight

Part II: Signs from da Crib

2 pages

Chapter 4: Gimme Some Suga

22 pages

We start slow with some one word ideas to break the Baby Street Signs ice. We extrapolate the word into more complex meaning as the learning levels increase. We will show you the level advancement with the American Sign Language translation in this chapter to demonstrate how the complexity of the translation increases as baby's intelligence grows. In future chapters here in this Detailed Table of Contents we will assume the levels concept – Level 1 = Chillin'; Level 2 = Thrillin'; Level 3 = Illin' – are established and we'll only provide the stepped American Sign Language translations.

Gimme Some Suga!

Chillin' (kiss)

Thrillin' (sugar + kiss)

Illin' (sweet + kiss + plant-one + right-here)

Stud

Chillin' (boy)

Thrillin' (that-boy + tough)

Illin' (look + admire + up + boy + tough)

Chick

Chillin' (girl)

Thrillin' (that-girl + pretty)

Illin' (female + sexy + want + must)

Big Dawg

Chillin' (friend)

Thrillin' (buddy + huge)

Illin' (pal + large + need + nearby)

Baby Mamma

Chillin' (mommy)

Thrillin' (mom + cruel)

Illin' (mamma + big + vicious + arrgh!)

Doofus

Chillin' (daddy)

Thrillin' (father + dumb)

Illin' (pops + silly + big + duh!)

Bling-Bling

Chillin' (shiny)

Thrillin' (gleam-on + me)

Illin' (bright-shine + for-for + me + silly + you)

Crap Sack

Chillin' (diaper)

Thrillin' (cloth + poopy)

Illin' (pinch-cloth + breathe + can't + poopy + too-much)

Chapter 5: Shoutin' it Out

12 pages

Sometimes the best way to express a thought or emotion in Baby Street Signs is the guttural utterance or the voiced interjection. Here are fun and surefire signs to get someone's attention.

Yo!

(hi)
(ho + there)
(my + eye + on-you + there)

Later

(bye)
(buh + bye)
(you + me + separate + finish)

Don't be a Hater

(aw)
(us-two + hug)
(us-two + big + pals + love + much)

Fo' Shizzle

(sure)
(for + sure)
(absolutely + promise + for + sure)

C'mon Now

(yeah?)
(you + no + no)
(you-there + fool-me + no + no)

Chapter 6: You Followin' Me?

10 pages

The best way to make sure what you're signing is being understood by others is to ask a question. Here are some street questions built to get fast answers.

Whazzup?

(well?)
(wha + zup?)
(you + what-do + all + time)

Who Dat?

(who?)
(wha + that)
(who + that-person + belong + where?)

Who Dere?

(hello?)
(hi + there)
(you + over-there + come + out)

Say Wha?

(huh?)
(eh + what?)
(you + say + for-me + repeat)

Got It? Get It? Good!
(understand)
(you + get-me)
(you-there + understand + brain + inside + stay + yay!)

Chapter 7: Once a Playa Always a Playa!

14 pages

One sign of sure affection is to tease and deal the dozens on those you love the most. A baby playa is a baby who knows the score – not one looking to score!

Pops stanks like a fish tank.
(stinky)
(pappy + pew!)
(daddy + stinky + fish + dead)

Boo's sweats crusty!
(potty)
(here + smell + too-much)
(me + poopy + finish + pants + crunch-crunch)

Did dog pee on da floor or did Boo miss da diaper again?
(pee-pee)
(who-there + pee-pee)
(dog + there + pee-pee + baby + diaper + miss + never)

Moms never hearted you.
(don't-like)
(mamma + don't-like)
(mommy + baby + like + never)

Pa-Pa's krunk an' frothy!
(crazy)
(wacky + you)
(dad + strange + drunk + sex + ready)

I'm dealin' da dozens on your mamma's fat ass!
(insult)
(mother + yours + fat)
(mamma + offend + many + wide-load + heavy + bouncy)

Chapter 8: Playin' wif Peeps

16 pages

Terms of endearment are an important emotional expression of love and respect. Here's how baby can express much love for those around you in the street.

Fams
(family)
(group + people + connected)
(people + crazy + me + belong)

Crack Whore
(sister)
(sis-my + cheap)

(sister-there + drugs + give + sex + will)

Homey

(brother)

(bro + right-here)

(male + relate + mine + close-to-heart)

Ho-Nanny

(aunt)

(auntie + loose)

(aunt + morals + lacking + money + needing)

Fester

(uncle)

(uncle-mine + odd)

(uncle + wacko + hair + bad + pea-brain)

Granddiddy

(grandfather)

(grandpops + affection)

(grandpappy + pal + money + have)

Momsdiddy

(grandmother)

(grandmoms + heartfelt + giver)

(grandmamma + love + provide + money + kisses)

Buds

(pal)

(us-two + linked)

(friendship + CHA! + forever)

Cuz

(cousin)

(cousin-female + nearby)

(cousin-male + close-friend + deep + connect)

Homes

(friend)

(pal + area)

(buddy + neighborhood + street + ground + all-together + tight)

Boo

(love)

(lover + sweetness)

(lover-here + kind + sex + hump-hump)

Part III: Signs Along da 'Hood

2 pages

Chapter 9: Buyin' da Bling

12 pages

Shopping on the street brings baby untold riches. Here's how to best express urban wants in Baby Street Signs.

I'ms blingin' down da road!

(bling!)

(shine-on-me + golden + bling!)

(me + walk + gold-bling + shine + in-eye-poke)

Mines tins are shinin' an' I's ain't wearin' braces.

(dentures)

(metal + put-on + teeth)

(teeth + fake + metal + shine + braces + don't-have)

These stud metals cost me fiddy large!

(medal)

(dog + tags + expensive)

(me + big-man + tags + hanging + rich + me)

I fix your teeth for free wif dese!

(punch)

(me + hit + you + metal)

(knuckles + brass + your + mouth + meet-together)

I'm steamin' new nostrils.

(pinch-nose)

(nose + finger + onto)

(pierce + nose + earring + in + show-off)

Chapter 10: Hittin' da Street

18 pages

As baby strolls down the street in a stroller, these signs and phrases will get the community communicating in a way baby can control and enjoy.

Pigs

(cop)

(police + worker)

(badge + community + protect)

Does you smell bacon?

(officer)

(you + officer + sniff)

(officer + bacon + similar + cooks + right-there)

Not hungry for hogs in a blanket.

(sheriff)

(who-there + hiding + sheriff?)

(you + see + can + sheriff + shotgun + in + car)

I pass on pork with cherries!

(deputy)

(lights + flash + deputy-car)
(emergency + deputy + have + lights + blue + red)

Bro's an' Ho's

(people)
(man + woman + together)
(group + there + men + friends + woman + sluts)
Am that a dawg or a dyke?
(confused)
(man + woman + which?)
(transvestite-there + penis + have + boobs + want)
Don't be a hoochie mamma!
(whore)
(cheap + woman + no)
(you + sleep + around + finish!)
I'm a Playa, not a Hata.
(bastard)
(man + love + hate-not)
(sex + have + too-much + fight + no-more)

Groovin'

(drive)
(drive + style + have)
(me + in-car + drive + admire + cocky)

Stop pushin' on da people packer!

(polite)
(you + shove + not)
(bus + riding + push-me + never!)

Mines hooopdie am hoopdy!

(car)
(vehicle + old + good)
(me + favorite + car + love + always)

Chapter 11: Signin' an' Sayin'

12 pages

Here are some universal signs that need no Street Sign but we provide them anyway.

Aw-ight!

(yeah!)
(hell + yes!)
(damn + straight)

F-Off!

(“F”)

(“F” + “U”)

(finger-thrust – back-to-you)

Kiss my butt!

(smooch)

(smack + ass)

(right-now + butt + right-there + slobber)

Lick this!

(lick)

(right-there + slurp)

(your + tongue + wet + this + spot)

Pay Up!

(pay)

(money + have?)

(you + +have + riches + give-to-me)

Lay one on me!

(smack)

(us-two + kiss)

(you + I + lips + touch + press-hard)

Sucka!

(loser!)

(you + suck)

(you + lose-many + suck + too-much)

Part V: Gutter Tales

Chapter 12: HandShapes Shadow Stories

12 pages

The final part of *Baby Street Signs* helps create fun, interactive, street stories for baby to learn on all three levels. We start with a simple story, expand it and then blow it out of the street and into the wilds of the imagination. In this chapter, baby will learn street shadow puppet stories with HandShapes.

L'il Red Riding in da 'Hood
Chillin'...
Thrillin'...
Illin'...

Chapter 13: Singin' Signs Like a Jailbird

12 pages

Here baby will learn how to sing street songs with the hands.

Ten L'il Indians in Little India
Chillin'...
Thrillin'...
Illin'...

Chapter 14: Hand Me Down Bedtime Stories

12 pages

Finally, baby will learn how create a street story for bedtime.

Countin' Sheep fo' Shizzle!
Chillin'...
Thrillin'...
Illin'...

Appendices