

# Te Reo Singalong Books in NZSL

New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) is the language of the New Zealand Deaf Community. Like Te Reo Māori, NZSL is an official language of New Zealand and can be used by learners as their medium of instruction across all learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum.

Te Reo Singalong Books in NZSL are a translation of the written text. When reading to a younger audience in a spoken language, we use intonation and emphasis to engage the learner and add further information about the characters and story. In NZSL, the emphasis required for a younger audience is conveyed through duration of signs, pauses, facial expression, signs and movement of the body.

Te Reo Singalong Books in NZSL also include features of Deaf Culture. In He aha tēnei?, the phrase TITIRO MAI is shown as a small hand wave which is used to gain a Deaf person's attention. To show appreciation Deaf people applaud by waving their hands rather than clapping them together. In Kei te Peke Ahau, the word PAKIPAKI is shown this way: <http://nzsl.vuw.ac.nz/signs/1323>

Another aspect of Deaf Culture is the use of unique name signs given to a person by a member of the Deaf community. They are a short and quick way to recognise someone. Name signs are often based on a physical characteristic or personality trait. In Kia Ora name signs are given to each family member.

For further information on NZSL, activities and resources please visit the following websites:

**The Online Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL Online)**

🌐 <https://nzsl.vuw.ac.nz/>

**Learn NZSL**

🌐 <http://www.learnnzsl.nz>

**Sign Ninja**

🌐 <http://www.nzslsignninja.co.nz/>

**Thumbs Up!**

🌐 <https://nzsl.tki.org.nz/>

