



# **Key Word Sign: A School Journey**

Presenter: Ruth Rogers



Website: [www.kwsnsw.com](http://www.kwsnsw.com) (NSW)  
[www.scope.org.au/key-word-sign-australia](http://www.scope.org.au/key-word-sign-australia)

# Acknowledgment of country



The Karonga journey:

**What is Key  
Word Sign?**

# History of Key Word Sign

- **Used internationally** – uses signs of host country
- Introduced in Australia (as **Makaton**) in early 1980s
  - *Margaret Walker, Kathy Johnston, Tony Cornforth*  
(originally used with adults)
- Changed to **Key Word Sign** in 2010
  - Based on current research
  - Need for an Australian based vocabulary

# Key Word Sign

## Why introduce it?

- as a tool to help understanding
- as a temporary means of communication
- as a supplement to speech attempts
- until speech develops
- as an alternative to speech
- to create a communication environment

# Principles of Key Word Signing

- always use **speech** together with the sign
- speak in **normal, grammatical sentences**
- sign only the **key words** in the sentence
- use **facial expression** and **body language**
- use **directionality** and **placement**
- **teach signs** that are **relevant**

**How does it fit in  
with a  
communication  
suite?**



**How has it been  
delivered at  
Karonga?**



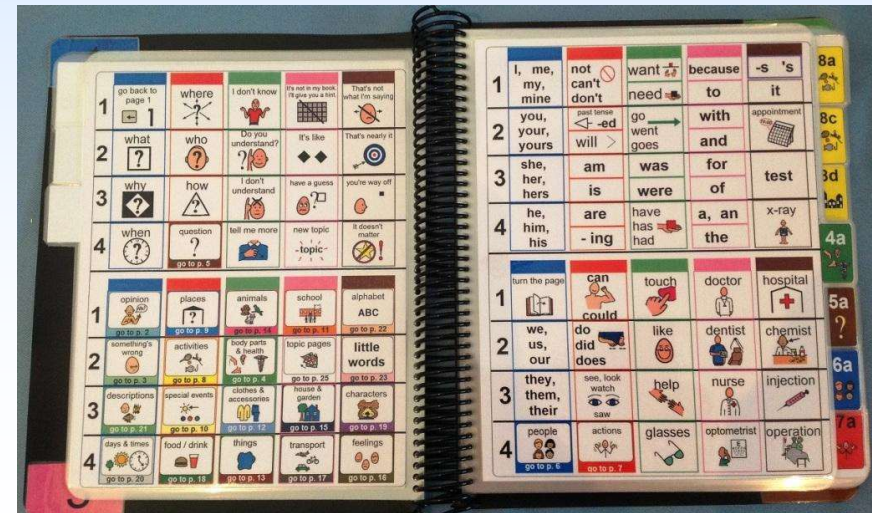
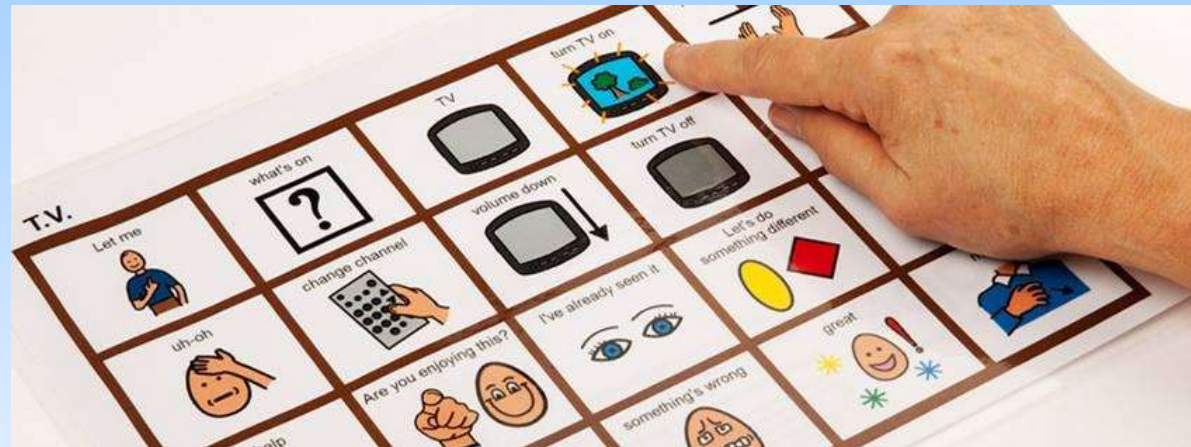


# Help understanding

- chores chart
- timetable of activities
- routines



- All my language together
- Specific topic boards

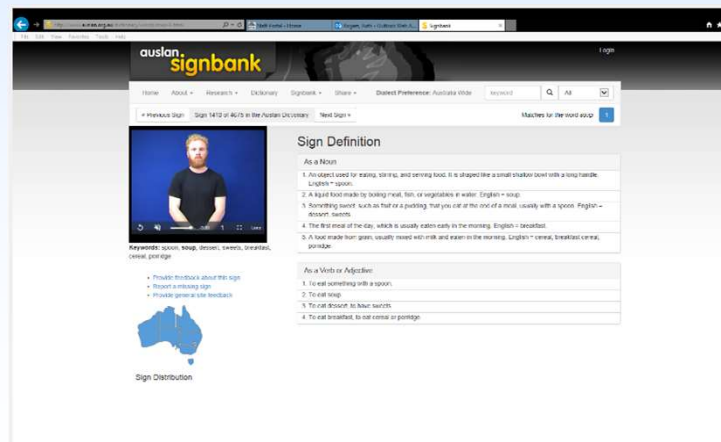


# Digital resources

This app is only available on the App Store for iOS devices.



This app is only available on the App Store for iOS devices.



auslan signbank

Home About Research Dictionary Signbank Store Contact/Preference/Account/Help/Feedback

Home > Signbank > Sign 1412 of 4079 in the Auslan Dictionary > Next Sign >

Matches for the word soup 1

### Sign Definition

As a Noun

1. An object used for eating, stirring, and serving food. It is shaped like a small shallow bowl with a long handle. English = spoon.
2. A liquid food made by cooking meat, fish, or vegetables in water. English = soup.
3. Something sweet, such as that for a pudding, that you eat at the end of a meal. Usually with a spoon. English = dessert. Dessert.
4. The first meal of the day, which is usually eaten early in the morning. English = breakfast.
5. A food made from grains, usually mixed with milk and eaten in the morning. English = cereal, breakfast cereal, porridge.

As a Verb or Adjective

1. To eat something with a spoon.
2. To eat soup.
3. To eat dessert, to have sweets.
4. To eat breakfast, to eat cereal or porridge.

Keywords: spoon, soup, cereal, cereal, cereal, cereal, cereal, porridge

Provide feedback about this sign  
Report a missing sign  
Provide general site feedback

Sign Distribution

**How has it been  
delivered to the  
wider Karonga  
community?**

# Workshop Objectives

- Identify What is Communication?
- Identify What is Key Word Sign & Gesture?
- Know how sign supports communication
- Know who signing is used with
- Know a vocabulary of interactive natural gesture
- Learn finger spelling & Interactive Sign Vocabulary 1 and 2
- Use sign & gesture in everyday activities
- Choose useful vocabulary tailored to the individual

**In what way is it supported in the school week?**



# Signing Choir

A thousand years (Christina Perri)  
Australian national anthem  
Big Yellow Taxi (Counting crows)  
Count on me (Bruno Mars)  
Dancing Queen (Abba)  
I still call Australia Home (Qantas ad)  
One call away (Charlie Puth)  
Roar (Katy Perry)  
This is me (The greatest showman)  
True colours (Matti B Rap)  
We are the champions (Queen)  
What a wonderful world (Louis Armstrong)





# Video: Fast and Loose

<https://youtu.be/sqDLI-7vJ6w>

# Resources



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of Key Word Sign NSW. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.kwsnsw.com>. The page features a logo of two hands, one blue and one purple, above the text "Key Word Sign New South Wales". Below the logo is a search bar with the text "Search this site". A navigation menu on the left includes links for Home, About Key Word Sign, About Us, Contact Us, Frequently Asked Questions, KWS Community, KWS in Action, Membership, and NSW Workshops. The main content area has a heading "Welcome to Key Word Sign NSW" and a paragraph stating: "Key Word Sign NSW is a not-for-profit incorporated association that supports the use of Key Word Sign within NSW. It is run by a dedicated group of volunteers." Below this text is a circular logo for "REGISTERED CHARITY" with the text "australian.gov.au/charityregister" around it. At the bottom, there is a footer with the text: "Want to know more about Key Word Sign [click here](#), visit us on Facebook or [download this flyer!](#)"

# **Community engagement**

