

# "Let's All Talk!" – Exploring Inclusive Communication

### **Objective:**

To help students understand and appreciate the different ways people with disabilities communicate, such as sign language, braille, communication boards, and assistive technology.

#### Time Required:

30-45 minutes

#### Materials Needed: (Pictures for printing are available at end of document)

- Basic American Sign Language (ASL) alphabet chart (can be located online)
- Braille alphabet cards (with raised dots or printable tactile versions available online)
- Sample communication boards (simple ones with pictures)
- Tablet or video demo showing a speech-generating device (AAC or augmentative and alternative device)
- "Let's All Talk!" worksheet (with space for reflection and drawing)

## **Activity Steps:**

#### 1. Introduction (10 minutes)

#### **Discussion Prompt:**

"Did you know not everyone talks or communicates the same way? Some people use their hands, pictures, or even special devices to talk!"

- Briefly introduce the idea that people with disabilities may use different tools or methods to communicate.
- Explain the goal: to explore these tools and try them ourselves!

#### 2. Communication Stations (25 minutes total, ~approx. 5-6 minutes per station)

Divide students into small groups and rotate through the following **four hands-on stations**:

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#### 1. Sign Language Station

- Learn how to spell your name in ASL using the alphabet chart.
- Practice 3 common signs (e.g., "hello," "thank you," "friend").

#### 2. Braille Station

- Feel the Braille alphabet (if physical braille cards were attainable) and match letters to their print version. Alternatively, visually compare printed braille to what their written names would be.
- Use a Braille card to write your initials (with dot stickers or pre-made cards).

#### 3. Picture Communication Board Station

- Use simple boards to ask for things like food, play, or help.
- Play a guessing game: "What am I saying?" using only the board.

#### 4. Assistive Tech Station

- Watch a short video of someone using a speech-generating device.
- Try using a tablet app or simulation (if available) to choose words to make a sentence.

#### 3. Reflection and Sharing (10minutes)

- Group Discussion Questions:
  - "What was your favorite station?"
  - "Was anything hard or surprising?"
  - "How do you think someone feels when they finally get to share what they're thinking?"

#### • Worksheet Activity:

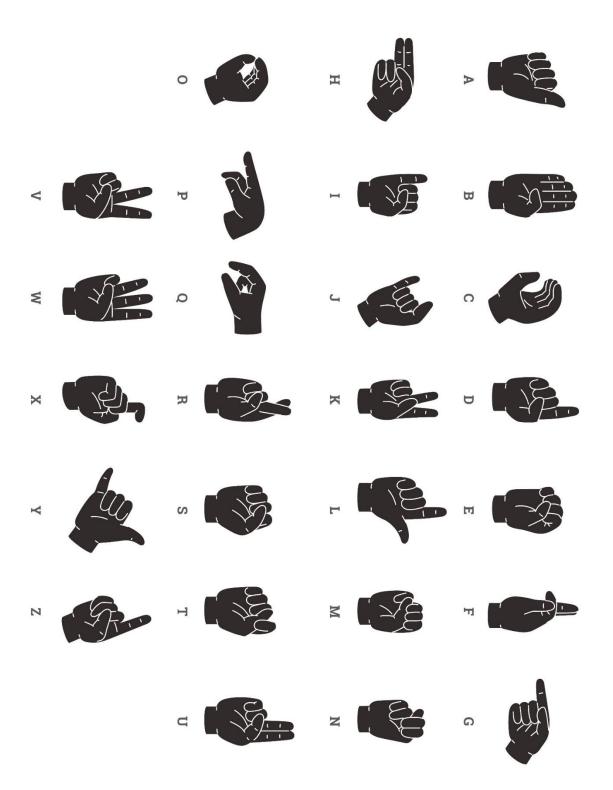
- Draw or write about your favorite new way to communicate.
- One thing you learned and one thing you want to learn more about.



## **Extension Ideas:**

- Invite a guest who uses one of these communication methods to speak with the class.
- Create a classroom "communication corner" with tools like mini boards or ASL charts.
- Learn a new ASL sign each week as a class!

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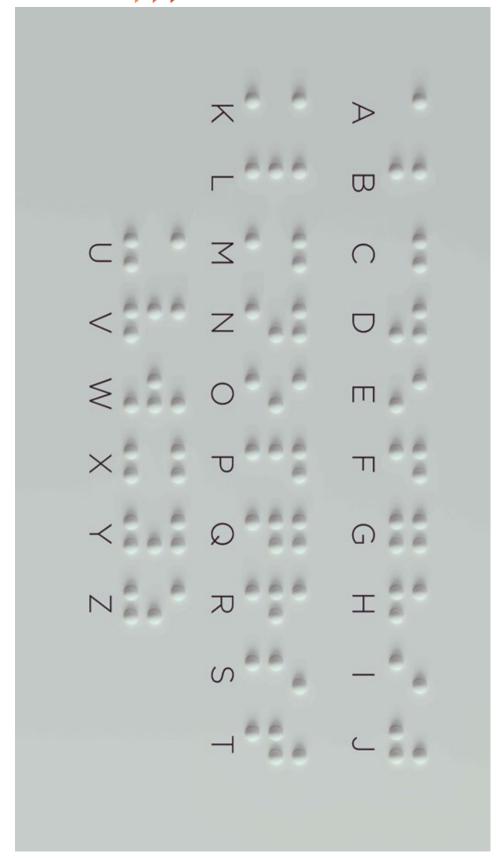






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