

## Sign A Phrase of Praise a Day

Using American Sign Language

by Elaine Ernst Schneider and Joanne B. Mikola

Children grow in the warmth and assurance of praise. As educators, moms/dads, tutors, and friends, we can give nuggets of encouragement that will boost confidence and inspire others to reach for their goals.

While some common phrases of praise are products of word twists that only make sense to the hearing - for example, *bravo* or *brilliant* as it refers to a "brilliant idea" - there *are* unique signs that clearly show the concepts of merit, kudos, and congratulations in SE and/or ASL. Some of these are especially fun as they are visual reinforcers to the hearing and the hearing impaired alike - for instance, "two thumbs up" is good news for anyone!

Lesson Tutor is proud to present its bevy of praise phrases in what we believe to be one of our most engaging products: *Sign a Phrase of Praise a Day*. Go ahead, try it out - it's almost as much fun to *give* praise as to receive it... at *any* age!

The following calendar worksheet includes all of the English phrases listed above. Add you own in the spaces provided, then practice adapting these words and phrases into ASL concepts. Have fun with it!




### *About the Authors and Artists*





**Elaine Ernst Schneider** entered the classroom as a special education teacher in the 1970's. Since then, she has taught mainstream English Grammar, Literature, music K-12, deaf education, psychology, Algebra, creative writing, social studies, law, and science in both public and private schools. Presently, Elaine is a curriculum author for multiple educational publishers and is the managing editor of Lesson Tutor, a lesson plan website found at <http://www.lesstutor.com>. Her most recent books, *52 Children's Moments* (Synergy Publications) and *Taking Hearing Impairment to School* (JayJo Books and the Guidance Channel) can be found at Amazon.com. She is currently working on a project with Pearson Prentice Hall as an author of an on-line teacher's professional development course for the Council for Exceptional Children.

**Joanne B. Mikola** is the co-founder and CEO for the [www.lesstutor.com](http://www.lesstutor.com) website. Joanne's life-long passions include creative problem solving, puzzles and mysteries. These were constantly fueled with her past career choices of Operating Room nursing and post-graduate teaching, and are currently maintained by motherhood and computers.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		Perfect.	Wonderful. Awesome.	How can I help?	You make it look easy.	What a clever girl.
Good try.	Good remembering!	Well done!	I knew you could do it.	You figured it out.	Amazing!	Perfect choices.
Fine job!	Two thumbs up.	What a clever boy!	What an imagination!	So close! Maybe next time?	I knew you could do it.	You are number one in my book.
Congratulations!	Your group works well together.	I am so proud of you.	I couldn't have done better myself.	Good decision.	You are such a good sport.	Keep up the good work.
Let's have a round of applause.	You're truly a hard worker.	Good question!	All right!	We couldn't have done it without you.	What a good idea.	That was so kind/considerate. Thank you.

Samples of graphic adaptations for signs:

What a clever girl!		
		
Smart	girl,	you!

I couldn't have done better myself			
			
Better	than	me,	you!

Samples of our 'Cheat Sheet' word descriptions for signing actions:

<i>Signs</i>	<i>Word Descriptions of Actions</i>
without	Place "A" hands together, palms touching. Then open hands as they move apart, ending with palms up, fingers slightly spread.
wonderful	Hold open hands, palms facing outward, near the sides of the face. Move hands up and forward several times. Note: Some signers use spread fingers; others close the fingers. Either is acceptable.
work	Tap the right "s" hand on the back of the left "s" hand.
worker (work + person)	1) work: Tap the right "s" hand on the back of the left "s" hand. 2) person: End with the universal sign for "individual" or "person who." It is made by moving open hands, palms turned in toward the body, down the sides of the body, chest to hip.
you	Point at the person you are speaking to.

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