

BATOD

“BSL – Past, Present and Future”

Agnes Dyab and Avril Hepner
22nd March 2019

Past



Present

Resources for teaching and using BSL formally for deaf children:

- Signature Level 1 and 2 in BSL
- City University – BSL Receptive and Production Assessment
- www.sciencesigns.org.uk

BSL (Scotland) Act



The launch of BSL National Plan link to BSL (Scotland) Act on 22 October 2017 at Edinburgh.

Today

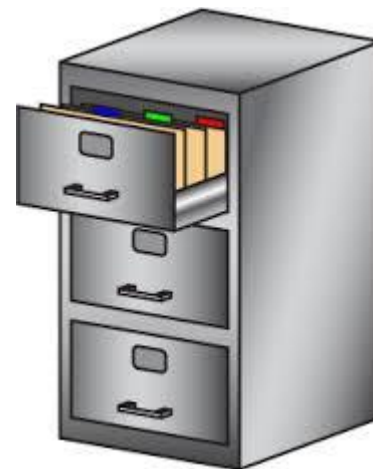


- Scotland have BSL Act!
- England, Wales and Northern Ireland do not have BSL Act yet...
- BDA are still campaigning for BSL Act

Future?

Deaf Education - Three Key Areas

- Poor educational outcomes
- Bi-lingual: BSL & English
- Emotional wellbeing & Mental Health



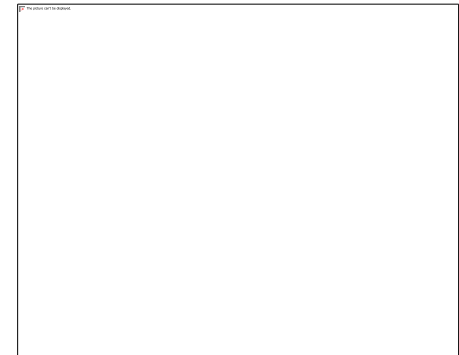
Language Acquisition

- Deaf & Hearing Families
- First & Second Languages (**L1 & L2**)
- Eye Contact
- Monolingual vs. Bilingual
- Language **deprivation**



Mental Health

- **No language** can affect **mental health** (approximately **50%**)
- **Emotional wellbeing** – not being able to express in BSL
- **Poor educational outcomes**
- Deaf schools – **peer support & empathy**
- **Social skills**
- Family - **relationship**
- **32 million** deaf children - struggle to read – **reading age 9**
(BDA & HUAWAI – Christmas Campaign Advert)
- Employment – **no jobs/career**



Research, quotes and references

- **Dictionary** of BSL/English – British Deaf Association



- **Education:**

*Grimes (2009) found that, of the **205 teachers** interviewed in Scotland in 2007, only **8% held BSL qualifications at level 3 or above.***

*Under article 24 of the **UNCRPD** schools should now employ “teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language”.*

Parents' involvement

- Join the **BSL (Scotland) Act (2015) Facebook group**.
- **BSL Authorities' plans** to be consulted with Parents – to show how they have taken their views into account.
- Parents should have the opportunity to share their views, including face to face meetings with **schools, Education Scotland and deaf organisations**
e.g. gathering evidence - discussion/consultation meetings.

(Community Engagement, Collaborations, Partnership & Empowerment)

BSL National Plan - EDUCATION (1)



Our **first** goal for Education

That children and young people who use BSL reach their full potential at school.

By 2023 Scottish Ministers will take these steps:

14. Discuss with General Teaching Council for Scotland (**GTCS**) how we could remove barriers to register Deaf people who want to become teachers.

BSL National Plan – EDUCATION (2)



15. Investigate the **qualification level of BSL that teachers** have and review how the GTCS's Professional Update and Standards could inform guidance for teachers of pupils who use BSL.
16. Discuss with Scottish Qualifications Authority (**SQA**) the potential for developing **SQA Awards** in BSL.
17. Ensure that appropriate **guidance and resources** are available to schools and local authorities.

BSL National Plan – EDUCATION (3)



Our **second** goal for Education

That parents who use BSL can access the same opportunities to be involved in their child's education as other parents.

By 2023 Scottish Ministers will take these steps:

18. Ensure that guidance to schools and local authorities consider the needs of parents who use BSL.

BSL National Plan – EDUCATION (4)



19. Consider what more we can do to ensure that parents who use BSL can be fully involved in their child's education.

Our **third** goal for Education

That the **1+2 language learning policy** offers the opportunity for BSL to be included in the suite of languages local authorities choose to offer to children and young people.

BSL National Plan – EDUCATION (5)

By 2023 Scottish Ministers will take these steps:

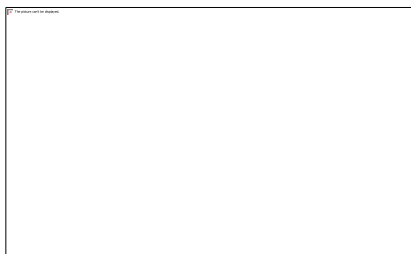
20. Make sure that education authorities and schools know that BSL can be part of the language offer in schools under **1+2 language policy**.

21. Gather information annually on where BSL is being **offered** in schools as part of the 1+2 language policy.

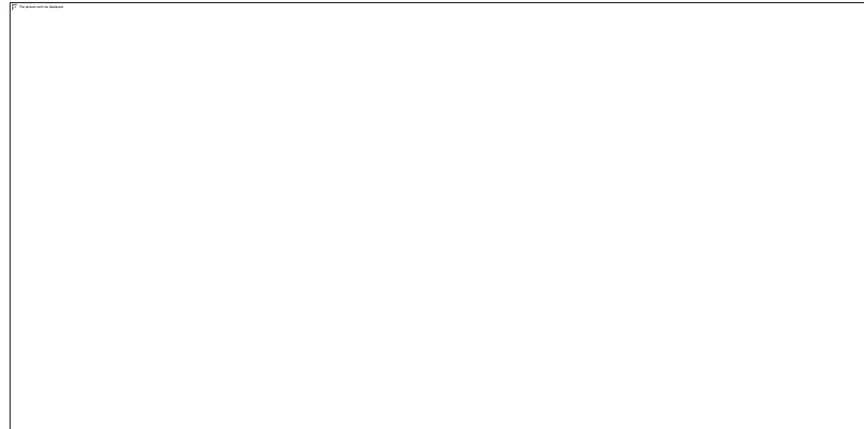
22. Gather and share examples of good practice in teaching **BSL to hearing pupils** as part of 1+2, and make sure there is guidance to support this.

BATOD– What's next?

- What are the **impact (changes)** of today's presentation for you as teachers?
- What would you like to see the **future plans** for BDA?



Questions & Answers





DEAF ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND
COMANN NAM BODHAR ALBA

www.bda.org.uk



The BDA stands for **D**eaf **E**quality, **A**ccess and **F**reedom of Choice