

### Action Plan – Overuse of Fingerspelling

**Goal - Skill to improve:**

Improve ASL vocabulary choices and effectively decide to use fingerspelling

**Source:** English

**Target:** ASL

**Root cause - What is causing the error in your work?**

- Did you have problems understanding exactly what the hearing person said in English? (comprehension)
- Was the source information unfamiliar to you? (background knowledge)
- Did you have a clear mental picture of what the hearing person meant? (visualization)
- Did you know how to interpret what the hearing person meant, using effective ASL vocabulary and grammar? (reformulation)
- Did you prepare to interpret a concept, but then forget it? (memory)

**Knowledge Resources:**

1) Read this resource: "Interpretation Skills: English to American Sign Language" skill #4 by Marty Taylor (available for purchase at <http://www.aslinterpreting.com>)

2) Read this resource: <http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org/MRIDModules.aspx> (click on the "Fingerspelling" link)

**Activities:**

1) Do a survey of at least 3 interpreters – When do they fingerspell while interpreting? When are they tempted to fingerspell words that they should not? Do a survey of at least 3 Deaf people - When do they fingerspell? When do they want to see interpreters fingerspell? When do they become annoyed by interpreters' fingerspelling?

2) Film yourself interpreting "Sex, Drugs, and HIV – Let's Get Rational" at [http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/elizabeth\\_pisani\\_sex\\_drugs\\_and\\_hiv\\_let\\_s\\_get\\_rational\\_1.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/elizabeth_pisani_sex_drugs_and_hiv_let_s_get_rational_1.html). Make a chart - write down a list of all the words you fingerspelled. Did you fingerspell those words because they were proper nouns, emphasized, technical vocabulary, or because fingerspelling is the standard sign for that word?