

Kid Talk



Derek and Kirsten-Paige (whose nickname is KP) are nine years old. They attend a school for children who are deaf. Here's what they said in an interview.

Q: Tell me about your brothers or sisters.

Derek: I have a big sister who is twelve and a little sister who is two. My older sister is deaf. My baby sister is hearing but I'm teaching her how to sign a little.

Q: Do you play sports? Who do you play with?

KP: I used to play basketball here at school. Now I play soccer and basketball with hearing kids in my town.

Q: What's your favorite part of school?

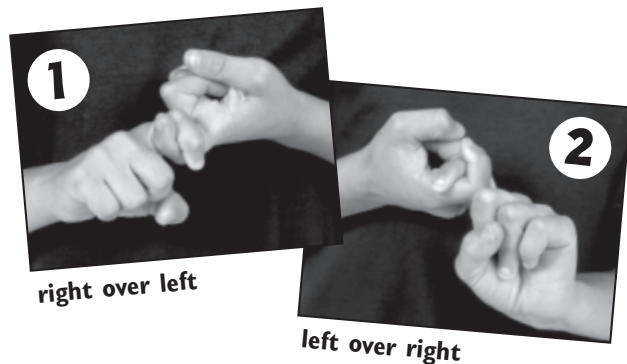
Derek: I like science because I like to try different things and see what happens.

Q: How do you communicate with hearing kids?

KP: Sometimes we write on paper what we want to say, and sometimes we gesture. Also, I read lips a little bit. On my basketball team, a couple kids wanted to know how to sign, so I taught them some signs.

Q: What do you like hearing kids to do when they first meet you?

Derek: I like them to gesture, so we can talk and be friends. I have a neighbor who's a friend. My dad said, "Come and play basketball with us." So he came over, and now we play together. We have our own way of talking to each other.



At the top of the page, Derek and KP are using American Sign Language (ASL) to say *friends*.

To sign *friends*, hook your right index finger over the left, then switch and hook your left index finger over the right.