

# Fill the Basket

Music and Lyrics by Anne Meeker Watson

## Targeted signs:

ALL-DONE, APPLE, BANANA,  
EAT/FOOD, LOVE/HUG/  
SNUGGLE, ORANGE,  
PLAY/TOY, PLEASE, SHARE,  
STOP, WANT

## Bonus signs:

CARROT, GRAPES, PEACH,  
PEAR, PEAS, TOMATO

My son Kevin was the inspiration for this tune because he never met a fruit or vegetable he didn't like. He loved for me to tell him a bedtime story that consisted of us naming all the goodies we could put in a basket and take on a picnic to our imaginary "Fruit Island."

I wrote this sweet song to give young children the opportunity to learn and practice words associated with eating, including food choices and manners. I recommend singing and signing the food vocabulary for the first verse and singing food words without signing for the following verses. You can teach and practice all of the food signs included on our bonus sign list as you enjoy them during snacks and meals. The tempo of the song is quick, and I do not want children to be overwhelmed by the demands of signing every food. Our goal is for them to enjoy the song! Add gestures and signed words as they are willing and able.

With repeated opportunities to sing "Fill the Basket," your children will "fill" the song with ever-increasing motor participation and singing.

Fill the basket to the top.  
Fill the basket to the top.  
Time to **eat**.  
So please don't **stop**!  
Fill the basket to the top.

Dance  
Dance  
Sign EAT  
Sign STOP  
Dance

VERSE 1.  
Do you **want banana?**  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!**  
Do you **want an orange?**  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!**  
Do you **want an apple?**  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!**  
**All done. All done.**  
Time to **play**. Time to **play**.  
Then it's time to . . .

Sign WANT or BANANA  
Sign PLEASE  
Sign WANT or ORANGE  
Sign PLEASE  
Sign WANT or APPLE  
Sign PLEASE  
Sign ALL-DONE  
Sign PLAY  
(repeat Chorus)

VERSE 2.  
Do you **want a peach?**  
  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!**  
Do you **want some grapes?**  
  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!**  
Do you **want a pear?**  
  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!**  
**All done. All done.**  
Time to **play**. Time to **play**.  
Then it's time to . . .

Sign WANT  
(Optional: sign PEACH)  
Sign PLEASE  
Sign WANT  
(Optional: sign GRAPES)  
Sign PLEASE  
Sign WANT  
(Optional: sign PEAR)  
Sign PLEASE  
Sign ALL-DONE  
Sign PLAY  
(repeat Chorus)

## VERSE 3.

Do you **want tomatoes?** Sign WANT  
(Optional: sign TOMATO)  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!** Sign PLEASE  
Do you **want some carrots?** Sign WANT  
(Optional: sign CARROT)  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!** Sign PLEASE  
Do you **want some peas?** Sign WANT  
(Optional: sign PEAS)  
Yes, **please!** Yes, **please!** Sign PLEASE  
**All done. All done.** Sign ALL-DONE  
Time to **play**. Time to **play**. Sign PLAY  
Then it's time to . . .

Fill the basket one more time. Pat legs  
I will **share** with these friends Sign SHARE  
of mine.  
How we **love** Baby Sing Sign LOVE  
and Sign! (music)  
Fill the basket to the . . .  
To the top! Clap one time for  
each word

For the instructional video, audio, and printables for this song,  
head to the Download Hub (see the About the Downloads  
page for directions).

# FILL THE BASKET

C G7

Fill the bas - ket to the top. Fill the bas - ket

C C C7 F

to the top. Time to eat so please don't stop!\_\_

G7 C G7

Fill the bas - ket to the top. \_\_

C

1. Do you want ba - na - na? Yes, please! Yes, please!  
2. Do you want a peach?

1.

Do you want an orange? Yes, please! Yes, please! Do you want an ap - ple?

Yes, please! Yes, please! All done. All done. Time to play. Time to play.

G7 2. D $\flat$

Then it's time to Do you want some grapes? - Yes, please! Yes, please!

D

Do you want a pear? Yes, please! Yes, please! All done. All done.

(continued)

FILL THE BASKET (continued)

Time to play. Time to play. Then it's time to fill the bas - ket  
A7 D

to the top. Fill the bas - ket to the top.  
D D7 G A7

Time to eat so please don't stop!\_ Fill the bas - ket  
D A7 D

to the top.\_\_\_\_

3. Do you want to-ma-toes? Yes, please! Yes, please! Do you want some carr-ots?

Yes, please! Yes, please! Do you want some peas? Yes, please! Yes, please!  
A7

All done. All done. Time to play. Time to play. Then it's time to  
D A7

fill the bas - ket one more time. I will share with these  
D D D7 G

friends of mine. How we love "Ba-by Sing and Sign!"  
A7 D

Fill the bas - ket to the to the top!

## Signs to Sing

These targeted and bonus signs can be performed to accompany your singing of "Fill the Basket."

### ALL-DONE



Hold *open hands* in front of you with palms toward chest. Flip hands so palms face forward.



Child may throw hands up to shoulders or shake hands from side to side.

### APPLE



Twist knuckle of pointer finger on cheek.



Child may touch or place palm on cheek.

### BANANA



"Peel" pointer finger with *gathered fingertips* of other hand.



Child may simply point one finger.

### EAT or FOOD



Tap *gathered fingertips* to lips once (EAT) or twice (FOOD).



Child may place *open hand* on mouth.

## LOVE, HUG, or SNUGGLE



Place both *closed fists* across chest (LOVE). Place both *open hands* across chest and squeeze arms as if hugging self (HUG). Add a twisting back-and-forth motion with the body (SNUGGLE).



Child may hold hands or fists to chest without crossing arms.

## ORANGE



Place *closed fist* at chin and open and close as if "squeezing" a juicy orange.



Child may place or tap fist on chin.

## PLAY or TOY



Extend thumb and little fingers of both *closed fists* and twist both at wrists. Note: Deaf adults typically fingerspell the word TOY.

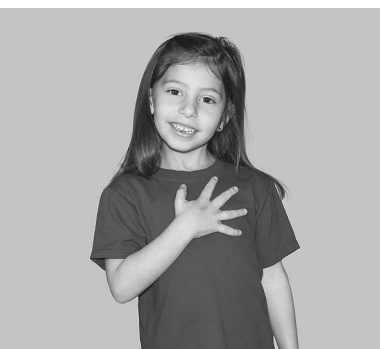


Child may shake both *open hands* repeatedly.

## PLEASE



Rub *closed hand* on upper chest in circular motion.



Child may place or pat hand on chest without circular motion or pat chest.

## SHARE



Brush *closed hand* back and forth along top of thumb-side of other *closed hand* with thumb extended.



Child may pat one hand on top of the other or pat both palms together.

## STOP



Place little-finger side of one *closed hand* abruptly onto palm of other hand in a single chopping motion.

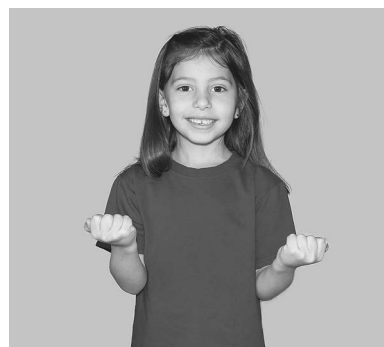


Child may repeat the chopping motion.

## WANT



Pull *cupped hands* toward body one time with palms up and fingertips slightly curved, as if drawing something desirable toward you.



Child may open and close hands several times.

## Bonus Signs

## CARROT



Place *closed fist* with thumb on fingers at side of mouth and pretend to eat a carrot.



Child may touch mouth with fingers or place fist on cheek without pretending to eat.

## GRAPES



Fingertips of open *cupped hand* tap several times on the top of other hand starting near wrist and moving toward fingers.



Child may tap fingertips on palm of other hand.

## PEACH



Open hand on cheek moves to *gathered fingertips* and away from cheek twice, as if stroking the fuzz on a peach.



Child may brush cheek with palm or fingertips.

## PEAR



Open hand wraps around pointer of other hand and then slides off to *gathered fingertips*.



Child may grab at one hand with the other.

## PEAS



Bent pointer finger taps across the pointer finger of other hand as if touching each pea in the pod.



Child may tap pointer or palm on top of other hand.

## TOMATO



Pointer finger touches lips and then slides down *gathered fingertips* of other hand as if slicing a tomato.



Child may use pointer finger or whole hand in slicing motion against other fist.





## Tips for Introducing “Fill the Basket”

- Your children will certainly be motivated to sing this fun song about their favorite subject: yummy food! Introduce the song by showing your children how to gently pat their legs for the duration of each chorus and sign some of the key vocabulary during the verses. With time and lots of opportunities to practice, you can add the words EAT and STOP to the chorus. They will enjoy performing the chopping motion required to sign STOP exactly on the beat as you enthusiastically sing the word “stop!”
- Language requires reciprocity. We take turns with our partners as we converse. We look at each other’s faces and make interesting expressions as we listen and talk. The verses are written in a song form called *call and response*. As the caller, you can ask your children the questions that include the food choices, and your children can answer with “Yes, PLEASE!” The pattern and predictability of the song will boost the likelihood that your children will respond with their spoken or sung as well as their signed words.
- You can sign WANT as you sing each food question in the verses. This is a powerful word to generalize across the activities of your day as you give children the opportunity to request. Sign the word every time you ask your children the question: “What do you WANT?”
- A variety of foods are included in your target and bonus signs for this song. You are the best person to decide what vocabulary you would like to focus on as you sing. Are you most interested in teaching words such as WANT, PLEASE, MORE, and ALL-DONE to give children tools to communicate during your mealtime routines? Or would you like to teach signs for food choices so that your children can label and request their preferred menu? It is important that the sign language instruction not overwhelm your children or take away from the fun of the song. In all things, including sign instruction, less is more. Start with a few signed words and add more each week as your children are willing and able.



## Fun Activities to Share With “Fill the Basket”

Make sign instruction and vocabulary enrichment meaningful by saying and signing these new words throughout the day across the child’s routines and environments. Learning is enhanced when early childhood professionals team with parents to teach the important skills we want youngsters to master. Families who play, sing, talk, explore, and laugh together enhance the secure attachment they form with their child, which provides the foundation for emotional development and brain growth.

Enjoy these play-based suggestions for imbedding the targeted and bonus words at your school or center. Share these activities with families to enjoy at home.

- There is a special motor action for the last three words of the song that your children will love. A young girl says, “to the top!” Show your children how to clap one time for each word. The words are spoken quickly after a bit of a pause. Your children will think this final touch is funny in that wonderful way that youngsters find joy in unexpected moments.
- You will need a basket and several copies of your “Fill the Basket” song page for this activity. Cut along the black lines of the grid with scissors to create individual food cards. Extend the life of your food cards by laminating them or covering them with plastic packing tape. Place the cards face down and let each child select one. Sing “Fill the Basket” without the recording so that you can allow children to respond at their own pace to the directions. Modify the verse lyrics slightly so that you ask the children “Who has an *apple*?” instead of “Do you want an *apple*?” The child with the *apple* visual then places that picture in your basket. Encourage each child to sing the words “I do, I do!” in response. Your basket will be filled with food by the end of the song. Dump the cards out and play the game again!
- The sign for ORANGE is the same sign for the color as well as the fruit. Share the “rainbow” of fruits and vegetables children can eat each day. Visit the produce department of your local market and purchase a variety of fruits and vegetables to show your children. When possible, allow children to taste some of your bounty. Teach children the names of the fruits and vegetables. Label and sort the fruits and vegetables by color and size. Let children touch and hold each fruit and pass it to their friend. Your food rainbow might include selections from the following:  
 Red: apples, cherries, strawberries, watermelon, red potatoes, tomatoes  
 Orange: oranges, peaches, sweet potatoes, carrots  
 Yellow: bananas, summer squash, wax beans, pears  
 Green: avocados, green beans, zucchini, mangos, papayas, peas  
 Blue: blueberries  
 Purple: grapes, eggplants
- Create individual placemats for your children by downloading and printing the supplemental “Fill the Basket” song page provided with your *Sing & Sign* resources. Protect your placemats by laminating them or slipping them into a page protector so that you can clean them and use them frequently. The visual gives your youngsters another way to “show they know” the food choices we sing about. You can help them strengthen their listening skills by asking them to point to the choices on their song page before you sing the song. “Where is the *orange*? Point to the *peach*.” Let each child take a turn at the conclusion of the song to point to his favorite food on the page. Ask children to “use their words” to tell you the name of their favorite by signing, saying—or singing!—their choice.

