

- **Descriptive gestures** are pantomime actions that are used when trying to describe or represent an action, object of event for communicative purposes (e.g. casting one's arm out to show that a man is fishing or holding one's hands apart to show how big something was).
- **Conventional gestures** have a standard social meaning within a particular culture. For example, shaking head to mean no, nodding to mean yes, waving goodbye, putting up a thumb to mean a job well done. These gestures are given meaning by the cultural context in which they occur; different cultures have different conventional gestures.
- **Informational gestures** are used to convey specific information, such as holding up two fingers to mean two.
- **Instrumental gestures:** are intended to achieve a goal, such as beckoning another person to come nearer (i.e. come here) or holding one's hand out (e.g. begging) to get something. A communicative reach is an instrumental gesture that is given credit in the Toddler Module but not in later modules.
- **Emotional gestures** express an emotion, such as shaking a fist to show anger, putting one's arm up to say "hooray!" or putting one's mouth to one's hand and gasping.
- **Emphatic gestures** are hand movements (beats) that are integrated into an individual's speech to provide emphasis as they are talking. It is important to pay attention to the quality of emphatic gestures, with special consideration as to how well the gestures are timed with an individual's speech and the degree to which the gestures are exaggerated or muted. In Module 4, emphatic and emotional gestures are considered in a separate item from other types of gestures.