

Reading Aloud with Children who have Hearing Loss

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with hearing loss might not be able to hear or understand some of the words in a story, or tell you the names of things on the page. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and sharing a colorful and interesting book. Over time, reading aloud can also strengthen speech and language skills, by making reading fun. It's a way to give your child a gift that will last a lifetime—a love of books.



READING TIPS FOR YOUR Infant or Toddler

- **Turning pages, touching the pictures, and reading books with flaps** will give your child practice using their hands, which gets your child ready to learn sign language.
- **Read together at a time of day when reading can be fun and relaxing.**
- **Learn and use simple sign language as you read.**
- **Read the same story many times.** This can help your child learn words that may have been missed before. Explain the story if you need to.
- **Make sure your child can see your face and the pictures.** This will make it easier to follow the story, even if the child doesn't catch all the words.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR Preschool or School-Age Child

- **Sit together to read when your child is relaxed and paying attention,** such as before bedtime or after a trip to the park.
- **Make sure your child can see your face and the pictures.** This will make it easier to follow the story, even if the child doesn't catch all the words.
- **Use stuffed animals to act out the story.**
- **Continue to teach your child to sign.**
- **Help your child draw pictures of the story.** This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.

INFANT OR TODDLER SUGGESTED BOOKS

Baby Signs
by Joy Allen

My First Book of Sign Language
by Joan Holub

Sign and Sing Along Series (*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Itsy Bitsy Spider*)
By Annie Kubler

Books by Anthony Lewis such as *Meal Time, My First Book of Animal Signs,* and *Play Time*

PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS

Sign Language, My First 100 Words
by Michiyo Nelson

One Trick for One Treat: Sign Language for Numbers and others
by Dawn Babb Prochovnic

Splish, Splat!
by Alexis Domney

Each Peach Pear Plum
by Allan and Janet Ahlberg

Jamberry
by Bruce Degen

Sheep in a Jeep
by Nancy Shaw



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RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Jordan Has A Hearing Loss (Ages 4–8)
by Jillian Powell (2004)

Taking Hearing Impairment to School (Ages 5–10)
by Elaine Ernst Schneider (2004)

A Button in Her Ear (Ages 5–10)
by Ada B. Litchfield (1976)

Can You Hear a Rainbow? (Ages 4–8)
by Jamee Riggio Heelan (2002)

I Have a Sister - My Sister Is Deaf
(Ages 4–8)
by Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson (1984)

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

Choices in Deafness: A Parents' Guide to Communication Options
edited by Sue Schwartz (2007)

Promoting Language and Literacy in Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
by Mary Pat Moeller, David J. Ertmer and Carol Stoel-Gammon (2016)

Understanding Childhood Hearing Loss: Whole Family Approaches to Living and Thriving
by Brian J. Fligor (2015)

The Parenting Journey: Raising Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
by Karen Putz (2012)

Raising and Educating a Deaf Child: A Comprehensive Guide to the Choices, Controversies, and Decisions Faced by Parents and Educators
by Marc Marschark (2017)

How Deaf Children Learn: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know (Perspectives on Deafness)
by Marc Marschark (2011)

ORGANIZATIONS Additional web resources are available at reachoutandread.org/ddresources

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf
agbell.org

American Society for Deaf Children
deafchildren.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
asha.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov/actearly

Raising Deaf Kids
raisingdeafkids.org

Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics
healthychildren.org

NIH: Hearing Loss
nidcd.nih.gov

DID YOU KNOW? Smart Ways to Use Media and Technology

- Young children learn more from reading or playing games with family than from using phones, computers, tablets, or watching TV. Talk with your child's medical provider about the best way for your child with hearing loss to connect with electronic media.
- For children under two, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises using electronic media only for video phone calls with people who are very familiar to them.
- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).
- TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask your child to describe what's happening.
- If it's too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them completely.
- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the moment be more enjoyable for both of you.
- You can find more information like this at healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx

Reading tips on the opposite side

