

For Children with Hearing Loss

Being read to is a part of a rich childhood and will help your child develop and learn. Your 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 he enjoys cuddling up with you and sharing something colorful and interesting. And, over time, the words can begin to make more and more sense, and he might be able to start repeating them, signing to you, or letting you know in other ways that he is sharing a meaningful experience with you.

His enjoyment can be your guide to choosing a book at the right level; you can try a book for an older age or go back to an old favorite. Reading aloud strengthens his speech and language skills, helps to make reading fun, and gives him a gift that will last for life—the love of books.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR

Infant or Toddler

- **Turning pages, touching the pictures, and lifting the flaps** will give her practice using her hands, which gets her ready to sign.
- **Sit together and read** at a time of day when reading can be fun and relaxing.
- **Learn and use simple sign language** as you read to her.
- **Read the same story again and again.** This will help her catch words she may have missed before. Explain the story as needed.
- **Make sure she can see your face and the pictures.** This will help her follow the story, even if she 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 receptive**—after returning from the park or before bedtime.
- **Make sure your child can see your face and the pictures.** This will help her follow the story, even if she doesn't catch all the words.
- **Use stuffed animals to act out the story.**
- **Continue to teach your child to sign.**
- **Your child's early reading and writing skills develop at the same time, so help her to use crayons, markers, and paint to draw pictures.**



where great stories begin™
reachoutandread.org



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

Splash, Splat!

by Alexis Domney

Each Peach Pear Plum

by Allan and Janet Ahlberg

Jamberry

by Bruce Degen

Sheep in a Jeep

by Nancy Shaw

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 (find all web resources 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

MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Young children love TV, iPads, videos, and electronic games, but they don't learn as much from looking at screens or pushing buttons as from spending time reading and playing games with family. It is important for you to think and talk with others about the ways your young child with hearing loss will best connect to media.
- For children under two years old, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises electronic media only for video phone calls with people close to them, such as parents deployed overseas or grandparents.
- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).
- Sit with her while she is watching TV or other media, and talk about what she sees.
- If he struggles to turn off the TV or put down the iPad, it may be a good idea to eliminate screen time altogether by leaving the TV off and not giving him a cellphone.
- Of course, put away your own electronics. Instead, play, sing, talk and read with him.
- For more information on media and technology use, visit healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx.

Reading tips on the opposite side

