

RESOURCES

The 15 Principles for Reading to Deaf Children:

www.gallaudet.edu/clerc-center/info-to-go/literacy/literacy-it-all-connects/reading-to-students.html

A Treasury of Read-Alouds:

www.trelease-on-reading.com/rah-treasury-intro.html

Visual Storyreading in American Sign Language: Materials may be borrowed from the KSD Lending Library at www.ksdeaf.org/outreach/lending-library

Schleper, D. (1997). *Reading to deaf children: Learning from deaf adults*. Washington, DC: Pre-College National Mission Programs.

Trelease, J. (2013). *The read-aloud handbook (7th ed.)*. New York, NY: Penguin Books.

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Deaf Education at a glance...



KANSAS SCHOOL
FOR THE DEAF
OUTREACH

READING WITH YOUR CHILD

It is widely accepted that being able to read is a critical skill in our society. Children must be able to read for information and enjoyment. Additionally, being able to read is an excellent way to continue to develop vocabulary, language and understanding of the world. Children who are deaf/hard of hearing can face significant challenges in developing the language and literacy skills necessary to reap the benefits of reading.

There are many things you can do at home to develop your child's literacy skills. Some strategies are applicable to all children, others are specifically helpful to deaf/hard of hearing children.

- ✓ Expect your child to become literate.
- ✓ Have a variety of reading material available throughout your home including books, magazines, newspapers, signed stories paired with books, and digital print.
- ✓ Read to and with your child. Use gestures to promote learning concepts regardless of whether your child uses sign language or spoken language. Sit where your child can see the book, your face, and your signs/gestures.
- ✓ Create your own books with pictures from family vacations/activities. The captions explaining the pictures become the "text" for the book. A variety of apps are available to create your own e-books.
- ✓ Focus on reading comprehension (understanding what is being read) vs. being able to "read aloud."
- ✓ Fingerspell. Fingerspell proper nouns (family members' names, stores, cities), nouns (household items, clothing), verbs (daily routines). Pair the fingerspelling with the printed word, the spoken word, the signed word, an item, a picture, and/or an action to help your child connect the fingerspelled word with the correct concept.
- ✓ Finally, "a strong first language foundation (regardless of the language used [ASL or English]) is critical to reading success" (Visual Language and Visual Learning Science of Learning Center, Research Brief No. 4). In other words, communicate with your child—converse about what you are doing, where you are going, how you are feeling, and so forth. This helps your child develop his/her vocabulary and world knowledge which are essential for reading.

KSD Outreach Mission: To provide the highest quality of services, resources, and support to children ages birth-21 who are deaf/hard of hearing by collaborating with their families, their communities, and the professionals that serve them.