



## Language Acquisition Strategies for Deaf Children

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## Speech-language strategies...

- **Skills to practice**
- Speaking clearly to children
- Quietly with adults
- Reduce questions – increase comments

## ...Speech-language strategies...

- **Adult model**
- slowly
- briefly
- melodic
- lot of repetition



## ...Speech-language strategies

- **Techniques that can help**
- onomatopoeia (opa, hm, oh, aha)
- Facial expressions - emotions
- Natural gestures, signs, sign language
- Pause (wait until the child meets their interest, to process the message)
- Wait until the child reacts
- Playing with the toy the child chooses
- Comment on the child's level, his ideas and actions
- Repeat what the child says and expand with one, two words

## Reading Strategies for Deaf Children

Top ten strategies deaf bilingual parents use to promote literacy skills in their deaf children (K. Holcomb)

- (1) Have age-appropriate books ready on hand in each room, even in the bathroom.
- (2) Start with waterproof books and board books with clear pictures for the babies. Read at least one book every night for this age group. As the children get older, increase the number of books.

## Reading strategies...

- (3) Use props such as stuffed animals to role-play while reading the books together.
- (4) Translate from written English to ASL to explain the concept of the story since ASL can reflect the moods and emotions more clearly.

### Reading strategies...

- (5) As the children become aware of the English language, point out key words as you sign. Sign in English word order and fingerspell words with affixes whenever appropriate.
- (6) Fingerspell to the children at an early age. Children develop an ability to understand fingerspelling by age 2 - 2 1/2. By age 3 or 4 they can become proficient at reading and understanding fingerspelling.

### Reading strategies...

- (7) Take the children to the bookstore and library often to encourage them to buy or borrow books. Also, have them subscribe to their own magazines.
- (8) Encourage the children to write, including thank you notes and letters.

### Reading strategies

- (9) Interpret the television shows until the children develop independent reading skills.
- (10) Have the children practice typing on TTY (teletypewriter), SMS, and call their friends.  
This provides two way communication to develop their English skills.