

Connections

A publication of the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

Volume 9, Issue 5

Literacy



The importance of keeping reading FUN!

[Studies](#) show that reading for pleasure is more influential than socio-economic background when it comes to academic achievement.

Approaching classroom literacy activities in a multifaceted manner such as using technology and one-on-one support through tutors or other educational team members can bring fun and function to literacy lessons.

Families can supplement literacy development at home by adding in creative reading strategies such as reading somewhere new, planning a field trip or real world experiences around reading, and letting children read to a sibling, pet, or stuffed toy.

Building Readers

Incorporating technology

As technology expands, options for literacy support do as well. Here are some ideas for technology in the classroom:

- Modeling of literacy strategies digitally in whole-class learning
- Consider what supports to enable or disable on e-readers individually for each student. Disabling certain functions such as audio, highlighting, and hyperlink functions can encourage active versus passive reading.
- Extension activities on a device to allow students review and repetition of material taught, connecting these to teacher-led instruction for carryover.

MYTH BUSTED!

[A 2020 study published in the Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education](#) showed that deaf children demonstrated strong and consistent progress in text comprehension through eighth grade as demonstrated through NEWA MAP data. This shatters the myth that hearing levels alone create barriers to reading fluency.

Tutoring and educational team support

For students working to access educational content through listening or an interpreter, time with a tutor or educational team member could provide a self-paced and more enjoyable approach to reading. Some strategies that can be employed in a tutoring session are: interactive reading sessions, word-rich environments, multilingual exposure, and storytelling and creative expression.

One online opportunity is [Virtual ASL Academy, VASLA](#). This online service can pair deaf and hard of hearing students with tutors fluent in ASL.



Support at home

- Let your children see you reading and discuss what you are reading with them
- Visit the library, allowing your child to pick their own books
- Introduce your children to your favorite childhood book or series. Consider reading these together or simultaneously to allow for family discussion.
- Make reading part of your home through a dedicated space and/or time in your daily routine

Learn More

Educators:

- [15 Principles for Reading to Deaf Children, The Clerc Center](#)
- [Children's Book with Main Characters who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#)
- [Evidence-Based Literacy Interventions for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing](#)
- [Keys to Improving Reading Skills](#)
- [Literacy Instruction for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

Families:

- [Developing your Child's Reading Skills](#)
- [How to Make Reading Fun: 25 Ideas Kids Will Love, by Jean Reagan](#)
- [How to Read and Sign a Story with Your Child](#)
- [Parent Tip Sheet: Early Literacy Development](#)
- [Raising a Reader: Hearing First's Guide to Listening, Language and Literacy](#)
- [Youth and Family Connections - Literacy Videos](#)

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers