



ASLTales: A New Paradigm for ASL/English Literacy

Janis **C**ole, M.Ed, CDI-P, ASLTA-P

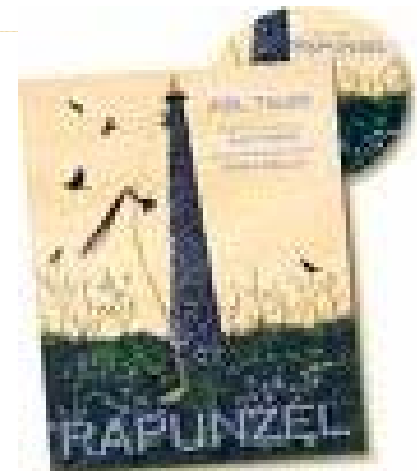
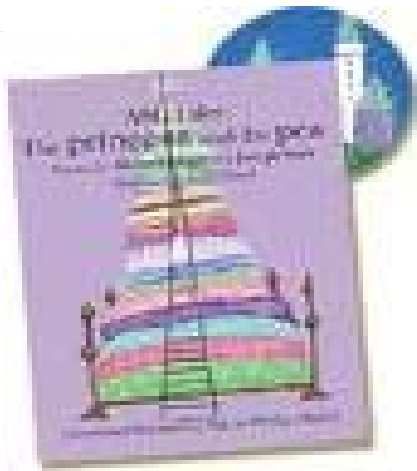
Kristin, **D**IPerri, ED.d

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A New Paradigm?



A New Paradigm!



Deaf person from a Hearing Family



Enjoyment



Why ASL Tales is Unique

- Masterful storytelling
 - linking ASL and English
 - opportunity to fully explore meanings in both languages simulatanously
- Universal design
 - using ASL features comprehensible to novice signers while using complex ASL grammar
- Learning tools encourage advanced learning for older children and adults



Benefits

- Honor two languages
- Discover a new way to approach learning both languages
 - Inclusion that works



Everybody Learns.....

Even families who don't choose ASL as the language of instruction can enjoy reading together

Deaf children get full access to stories -- leading to a love of reading (paralleling the path to literacy for hearing children)

Motivated ASL learners and those interested in basic communication with Deaf children learn to create a visual message



Embodiment of Human Gestures

- Systems that represents general properties of human language

- Gallaudet Deaf Way
- Grammars of sign languages in which the body, hands, head and face play a key role in the grammatical structure and communication



Value of Visual Language

- Despite eons of sound-based communications, hearing people still use visual-manual communication
 - Ex: travel/loud spaces/football/baseball games
 - Ex: TV, emotions/feelings, pointing, cold,
- Think of examples in your own daily life
- Gestures can support any communication option



Discovery Learning

‘Where’s Waldo?’ Concept

- Learners are inspired by what they can understand
- Learning tools support self-directed and independent learning



ASL Clues

- Clip - 2b
 - Clip - 9
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Cognitive Benefits

- Engaging story, illustrations and ASL story draws children in. Repeated readings are desired
- Over time children become interested in the differences between languages by comparing text and ASL. Child example “Where does it say that...?”
- Provides a foundation for developing thinking in two languages where each has a different way of bringing life to literature
- Provides mental flexibility as children begin to develop brain neurology related to comprehending elements and storing two languages



Linguistic Benefits

- Each language (ASL and printed English) is presented in full

- Integrity of each language maintained-no compromise in the richness of “literature” style of story-telling
- Children can see that there are separate and distinct uses of each language to tell the same story



Academic benefits

Allowing children to have access to both ASL and printed English establishes a firm foundation for later academic success:

- ASL provides 100% accessibility to language from birth
- A firm foundation in a comprehensible language will allow greater success with developing a second and third language
- Early exposure to ASL and English in full forms equips children with the meta-linguistic knowledge needed to become better readers

Bi-lingual Proficiency

Early love of reading

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Gateway to Literacy

New way to approach reading....

Emergent readers, after learning the ASL story, will naturally develop a curiosity for understanding the English text

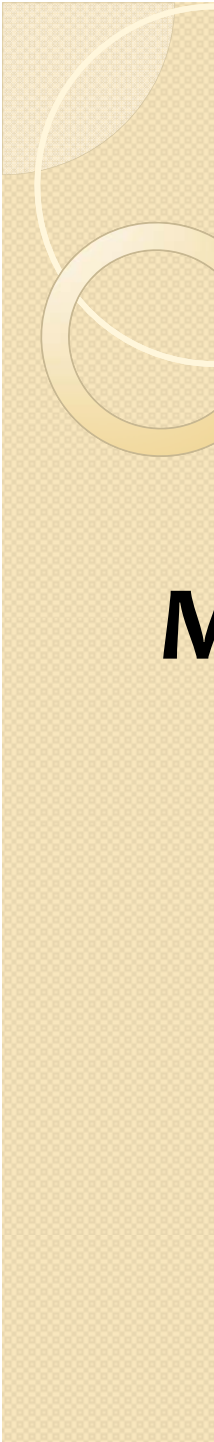


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.....Rita, now almost 4 years old, has recently begun enjoying the books along with the DVDs. Before it was about watching, passively soaking in the experience. These days she engages more, follows along in the book, expresses how the pictures on the screen and the pages are the same with such enthusiasm.

Additionally, she signs along - and at other times of her day signs her invented stories with vigor, with similar energy as Pinky. These imaginary stories are pocked with great expression, intentional humor, and strong spatial reference, each aspect quite reminiscent of ASL Tales style.

Rita's mother from The Learning Center
Framingham, Ma



Most of all, thanks to the children, who keep us remembering to continue the magic of storytelling alive