15 Principles for Reading to Deaf Children Cheat Sheet

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Introduction

The ultimate authorities in reading to deaf children are deaf adults. Comparative studies of deaf children with hearing parents and deaf children with deaf parents show that deaf children with deaf parents are superior in academic achievement, reading and writing, and social development (Ewoldt, Hoffmeister, & Israelite, 1992). Hearing parents and teachers can learn from the read aloud strategies used by deaf parents. The following 15 principles have been identified based on research that examined deaf parents and deaf teachers reading to deaf children..

Credit: https://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc-center/information-and-resources/info-to-go/language-and-literacy/literacy-at-the-clerc-center/welcome-to-shared-reading-project/15-principles-for-reading-to-deaf-children.html

Image



The Principles

1. Deaf readers translate stories using American Sign Language.
2. Deaf readers keep both languages visible (ASL and English).
3. Deaf readers are not constrained by the text.
4. Deaf readers re-read stories on a storytelling to story reading continuum.
5. Deaf readers follow the child's lead.
6. Deaf readers make what is implied explicit.
7. Deaf readers adjust sign placement to fit the story.
8. Deaf readers adjust signing style to fit the story.
9. Deaf readers connect concepts in the story to the real world.
10. Deaf readers use attention maintenance strategies.
11. Deaf readers use eye gaze to elicit participation.
12. Deaf readers engage in role play to extend concepts.
13. Deaf readers use ASL variations to sign repetitive English phrases.
14. Deaf readers provide a positive and reinforcing environment.
15. Deaf readers expect the child to become literate.

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to childr-en."
National Academy of Education Commission on Reading 1985

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