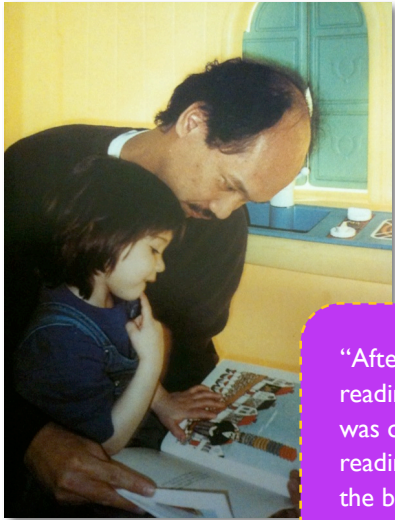


Why Shared Reading?

- Deaf children read, on the average, at the fourth-grade-level when they graduate from high school.
- We know that early book sharing experiences contribute to higher reading ability in school.
- Most hearing parents do not know how to share books with their young deaf and hard of hearing children.
- If hearing parents can learn how to share books, the reading ability of deaf and hard of hearing children should improve.



“After about the third reading, our daughter was quite good at reading whole parts of the book herself. She recognized enough words by sign to know certain whole sentences.”

- A father from Hawaii

For more information
about joining the Shared
Reading Project, contact:

Hawaii School for the
Deaf and the Blind
3440 Leahi Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815

Rosalind Kia
SRP Coordinator

Ph. 808.733.4999
roz_kia@notes.k12.hi.us

Hawaii School
for the Deaf
and the Blind
presents:



The Shared Reading
Project: 15 Principles of
Reading to Deaf Children

The Shared Reading Project: 15 Principles of Reading to Deaf Children

The Shared Reading Project is designed to teach parents and other caregivers how to read to their deaf children using American Sign Language and how to use strategies to make book sharing most effective.

Culturally diverse Deaf readers were filmed as they used American Sign Language to read fun, predictable children's books. Because children love seeing these books read over and over again, the parents have repeated opportunities to practice. Tutors visit the home to demonstrate how to sign the stories, and provide instant feedback to family members. The family uses the DVD of deaf readers signing the story to reinforce the new signs after the tutor has left.

The Shared Reading Project begins with an orientation workshop in which parents are introduced to the 15 Principles of Reading to Deaf Children. These principles are the foundation of the Shared Reading Project and will enable parents to successfully read to their children.

At the orientation, parents meet and are paired with a deaf tutor. This tutor will work with them during the ten-week Shared Reading Project.

How the Shared Reading Project works:

1. Once a week, a deaf tutor visits each home. The visits are scheduled at a time convenient for each family, most taking place evenings or weekends. The tutor demonstrates how to sign a popular children's storybook.
2. Family members practice signing the story. The tutor gives needed feedback to family members.
3. The family members read the story to the deaf child. The tutor watches and gives helpful hints.
4. The tutor leaves a "family book bag" with the family for a week. The bag contains a copy of the book, a DVD for practice, a bookmark with tips for reading to deaf



children, and a guide containing activities to do with the child after reading the story.

5. During the week, family

members read the story to the child again and again. If family members forget some signs, they can look at the DVD, which has a deaf signer reading the story, to reinforce what the tutor previously taught.



6. Family members make note of the number of times they read the story. They also jot down questions for the next tutoring session. The following week the tutor brings a new book, and the process begins again.