

The Fifteen Principles for Reading to Deaf Children

1. Parents translate stories using Jamaican Sign Language (JSL).
2. Parents keep both languages (JSL and English) visible.
3. Parents elaborate on the text.
4. Parents re-read stories on a "storytelling" to "story reading" continuum.
5. Parents follow the child's lead.
6. Parents make what information is implied explicit.
7. Parents adjust sign placement to fit the story.
8. Parents adjust signing style to fit the story character.
9. Parents connect concepts in the story to the real world.
10. Parents use attention maintenance strategies.
11. Parents use eye gaze to elicit participation.
12. Parents engage in role play to extend concepts.
13. Parents use JSL variations to sign repetitive English phrases.
14. Parents provide a positive and reinforcing environment.
15. Parents expect the child to become literate.

