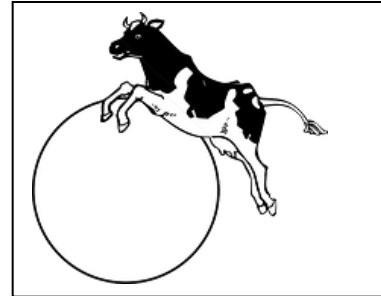


Let's talk about Goodnight Moon

By Margaret Wise Brown

Goodnight Moon is a gentle and soothing bedtime story. It was written in 1947 by Margaret Wise Brown and has been a children's favourite throughout the years. Bedtime provides a great opportunity to read with your children. Books like

Goodnight Moon are so restful and relaxing that children are more ready to drift off to sleep after the story is finished. One of the principles for reading with your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is to **"adjust signing style to fit the story."** The pacing of *Goodnight Moon* is slow and steady. Everyone is getting ready for bed. The day is winding down and night is falling. The rhyming in English naturally groups the sentences of each page together. Move your body so that you are signing on one side or the other encouraging your child to follow the rhyming rhythm of the story. You can slow your signing down, in this case, to reflect how the story would be voiced if read aloud. Many parents find that bedtime is the one consistent time of day that they have to read with their children.



Let's Play with Rhymes

Tall as a Tree

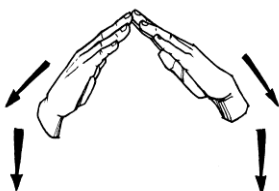
Tall as a tree,

(sign TREE and stretch your arms up over your head)



Wide as a house,

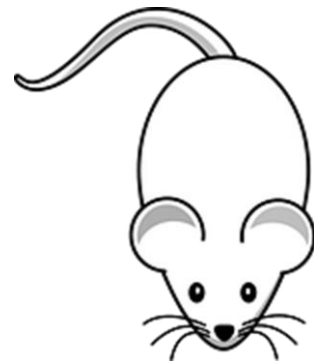
(sign HOUSE and stretch your arms out on both sides)



Here is something you can try when reading the book together:

With your child, look for the little mouse on every coloured page.

Can you find him? What is he doing?



Rhyme in English is based on the sounds of words (house and mouse or thin and pin), but in ASL, rhyme is visual. The more signs have similarity of shape, location, movement, and orientation, the stronger the rhyme. For example, TALL can be extended into TREE – keep the same hand shape and orientation as you stretch your arm above your head. WIDE can be extended into HOUSE – keep the same hand shape and orientation as you stretch your arms out on both sides. These are good examples of rhyming in ASL.

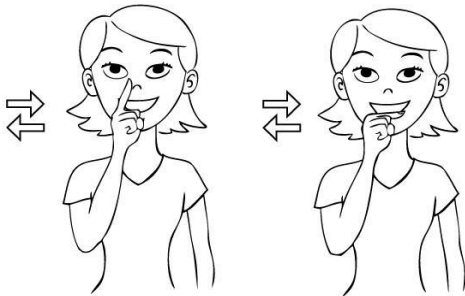
Thin as a pin,

(sign for THIN and arms tight against your sides)



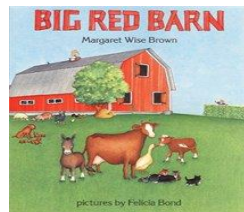
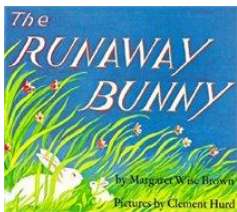
Small as a mouse.

(sign MOUSE and crouch down)



Read More About It!

Here are some other books by Margaret Wise Brown:



Let's Create

MOONSCAPES

You will need a cardboard square, a variety of dried beans or small rocks, some glue and some aluminum foil for this activity.

- Give your child a cardboard square, some glue.
- Set out the rocks or dried beans and have her glue them onto the cardboard.
- When she is done, wrap a piece of aluminum foil across the top of the cardboard and have her gently press the foil down around the beans and rocks to create moonscapes.

MOON MUD

You will need water and cornstarch and a small dishpan for this activity.

- Mix equal parts of water and cornstarch in a bowl.
- Add food coloring, if desired.
- Then, place the mixture in the bottom of a small dishpan.
- Let your child play with the mixture.
- Have him squeeze and interact with the "mud" noticing its unusual texture.



Let's Play Together

Get It Right Game

Before doing this activity, make sure you read the book a few times with your child so that he is familiar with the story.

Cut out the picture cards and place them inside a shoe box or small opaque container.

Take turns with your child. Pull out one picture card at a time. Try to put the items from the story in chronological order as they appear in the book. Once you have put the picture cards in order go back to the book and see if you are right! Use as many or as few of the pictures as you feel is appropriate. You can start with a few cards and work your way up as your child becomes more familiar with the story.

After using this activity for *Goodnight Moon*, your child will have a better comprehension of the story as well as building memory skills.

Picture Cards for Get It Right Game



