

Let's talk about The Carrot Seed

By Ruth Krauss

In this book, a little boy plants a carrot seed and takes care of it every day even though his family doesn't think it will grow. The little boy isn't bothered by his family's comments; he perseveres in spite of them. Unlike this family though, we all usually feel more confident when the people around us are supportive. One of the Le Clerc Centre's principles in the Shared Reading Project is to **"provide a positive and reinforcing environment."** This may seem obvious, but it is worth noting because your child will get more out of reading together if it is a fun interaction with you and the book. One way you can do this is to praise your child's approximations as they learn the various signs. It's a good idea not to be too hard on yourself either. Sometimes we are reluctant to try to sign if we don't think we can be a perfect model for our children, but by signing our own best approximations we are encouraging our children to try as well. And this willingness to try is the best model we can be!



Let's Play with Rhymes

Some ASL poetry involves taking on the role of a character. In this poem adapted from the ASL Mother Goose program, your child can use her whole body to act out a plant growing.

The line of the poem appears first and a description of how to move follows in italics. But feel free to play with the gestures here. Does your plant have many petals like a sunflower? How can you show this?

Dig a hole. (*pretend to dig a hole in the ground*)

Plant a seed. (*drop a pretend seed into the hole*)

The seed is in the soil. (*pretend to cover the seed with soil*)



Now you are the seed under the soil. Curl up in a ball like the seed under the soil.

The seed sprouts! (*push your head up through your hands like the seedling pushing out of the ground*)

The seedling grows, (*reach your arms up your sides like leaves pushing out of the soil*)

And grows, (*stand up a little as if the plant is growing taller*)

And grows bigger! (*now you are standing tall, your head reaching for the sun*)

Let's Be Together

Have you planted seeds with your child before? If you have, ask your child to remember the time that you did. What did you grow? Did it take a long time?

When you read together, you can help your child understand the story by connecting the new information in the story with what she already knows.

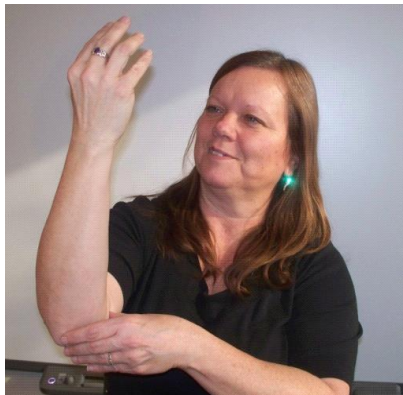
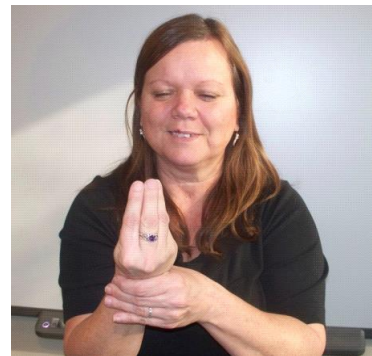
Help your child make connections between herself and the story.

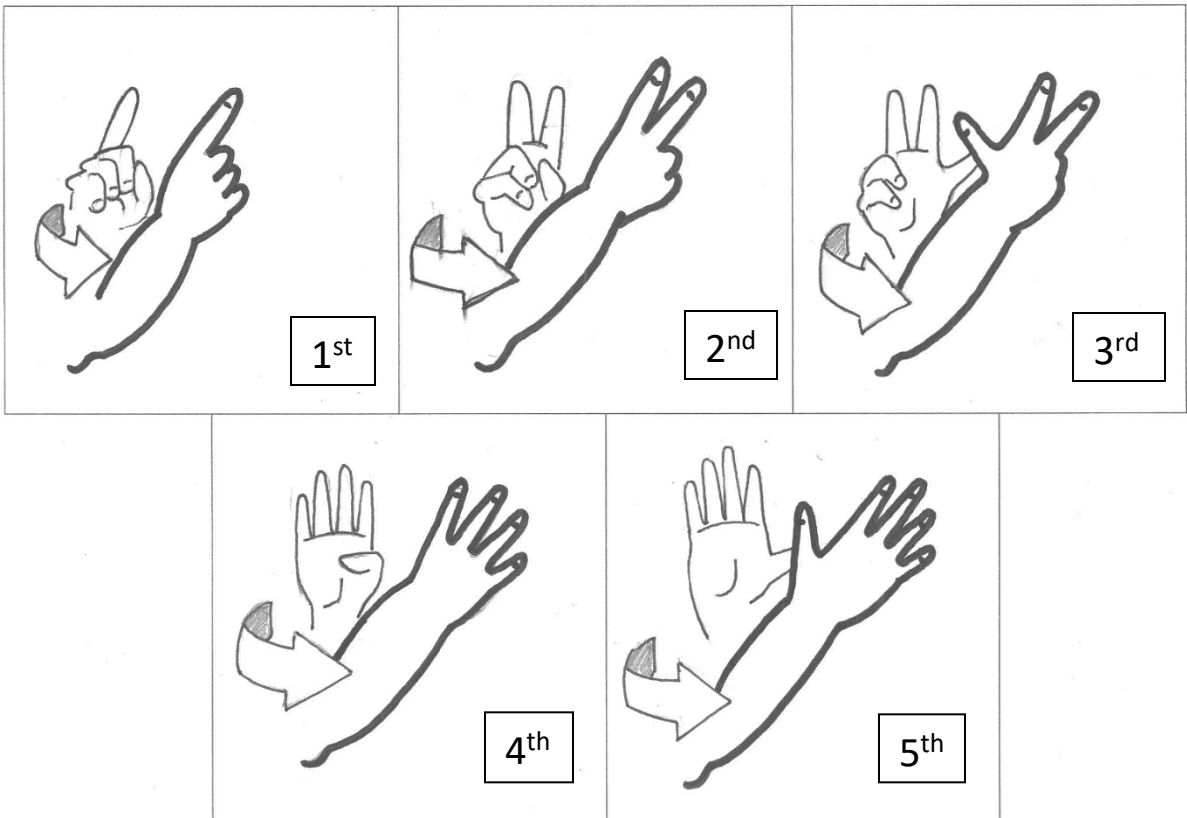
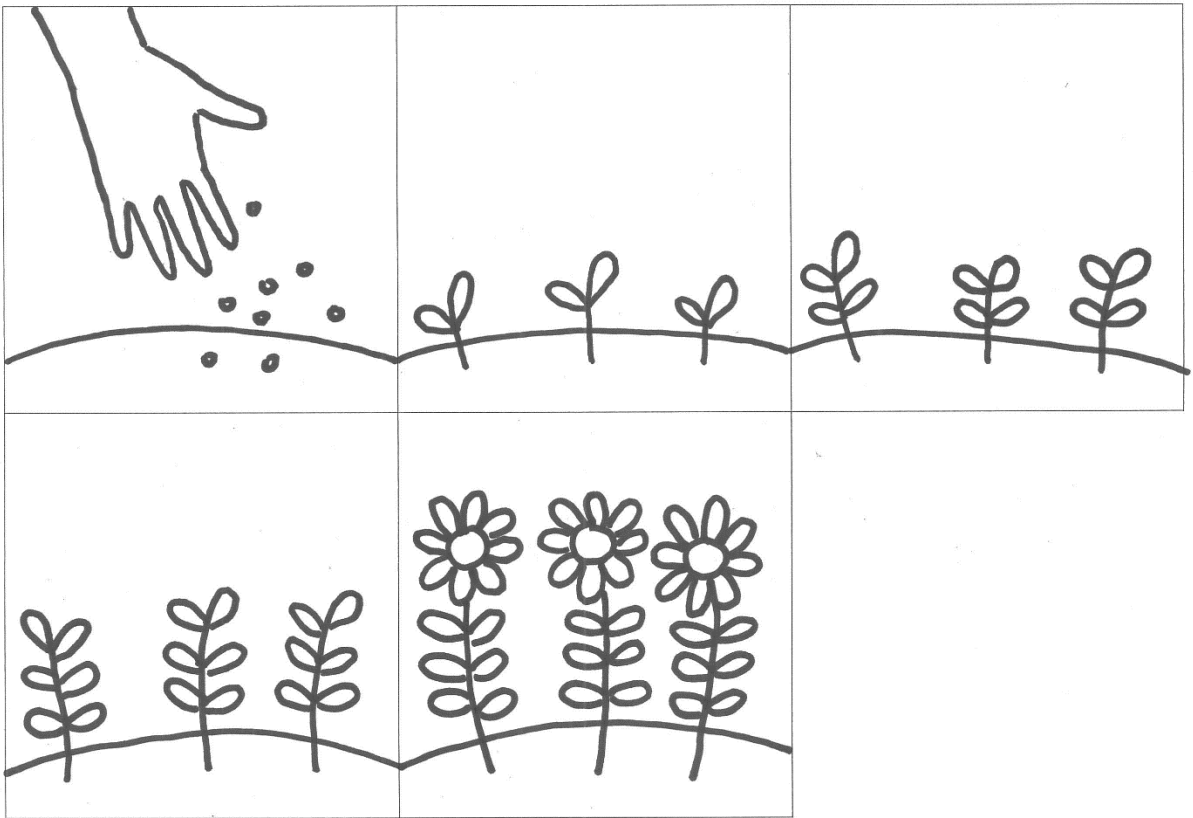
Let's Count

Sequencing the Plant Life Cycle

Below Kathy signs the growth of a plant in 5 steps. Then there are 5 pictures to show the growth of a plant. And following that are pictures of the ordinal numbers 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th in ASL.

Print and cut out all 3 sets of pictures. You can mix them up and ask your child to put each set in order of what happens first, second, third, fourth and fifth.





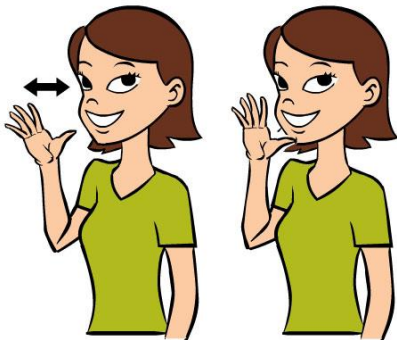
Let's Create

Make a Family Tree

In *The Carrot Seed*, we learn who the people are in the little boy's family. You can take this opportunity to practice the signs of family members with your child. Below are some signs for the most common family relationships. You can make a family tree with your child to have a visual reminder of who the child has in his/her family especially if they don't all live in the same city. This is also good practice for fingerspelling the names of your family members.



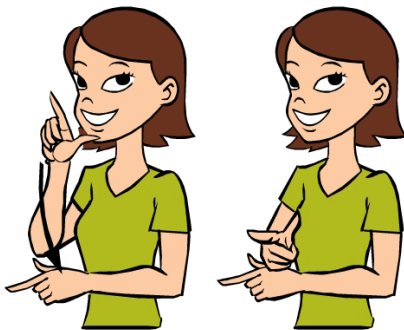
Mom



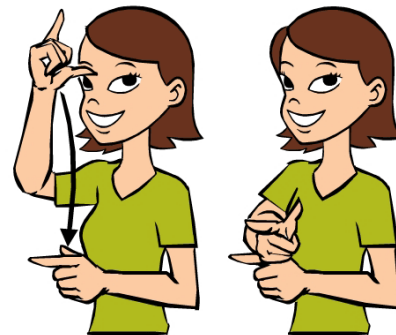
Dad



Sister



Brother

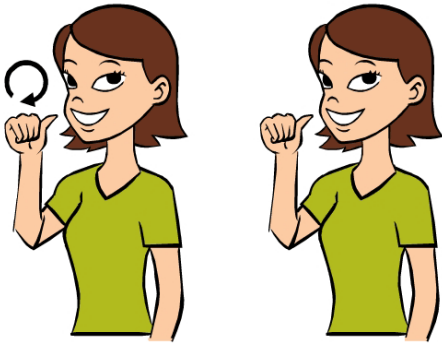


Signing Tip

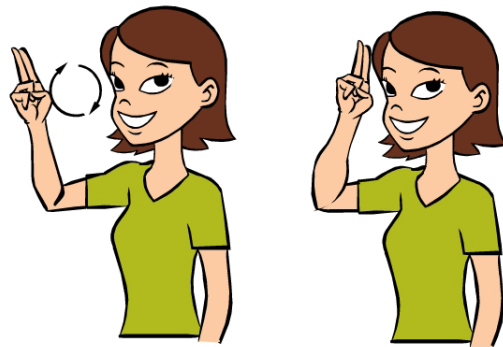
Male family members are signed at the forehead.

Female family members are signed at the chin.

Aunt



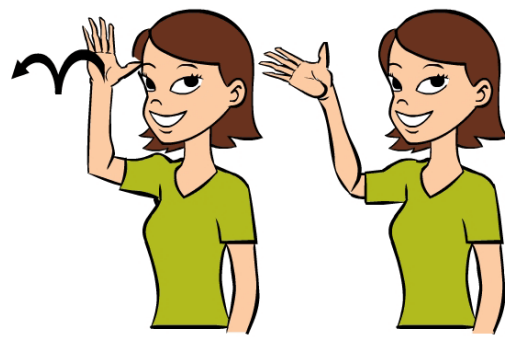
Uncle



Grandmother



Grandfather



To make your family tree you can use the tree shape provided or draw your own. Cut out leaf shapes from coloured paper or trace your child's hand to be the leaves. Next, write the names of the people in your family on each leaf. You could also add their photo to the leaves to give your child a visual reminder. Glue the leaves to the tree. Maybe you and your child can come up with another creative way to make your family tree!

Family



Tree



My Family Tree

