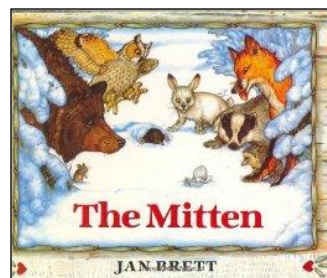


## Let's talk about The Mitten

By Jan Brett



This story is based on a Ukrainian folktale. Nikki's grandmother knits snow-white mittens that he takes on an adventure. Your child will enjoy the charm and humor in the portrayal of the animals as they make room for each new animal in the mitten and sprawl in the snow after the big sneeze. One of the principles for reading with your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is to **"keep both languages visible (ASL and English)."** As you enjoy the book with your child sit so that your child can see you and the book. This is a terrific book for getting comfortable with gesturing. Each animal's personality and/or attributes can be expressed in gestures that give life to the English language description in the story. Gesturing is a huge part of ASL. Have fun with the story as each new animal squeezes into the mitten.

## Let's Play Together

### Guess Who?

(Inspired by: [janbrett.com](http://janbrett.com))

Watch the DVD closely for the ASL sign for each animal. You will find animal puppet templates in this tip sheet. Print, colour and cut out the animal puppets. Tape a stick to the back of each animal picture. Introduce the story animals by showing each puppet and signing the name of the animal. Use gestures to act out all of the WHO questions. Gesture/sign the questions...your child can hold up an animal puppet to show you the answer. Make up your own questions about the other animals in the story.

WHO is good at jumping? (*Don't forget, in ASL the question word comes at the end of the sentence. Sign/gesture 'jump' and **then** sign 'who'?*)

WHO has long ears?

WHO is likes to eat carrots?

**RABBIT**, that's who!

WHO is very small?

WHO likes to burrow underground?

WHO has long claws?

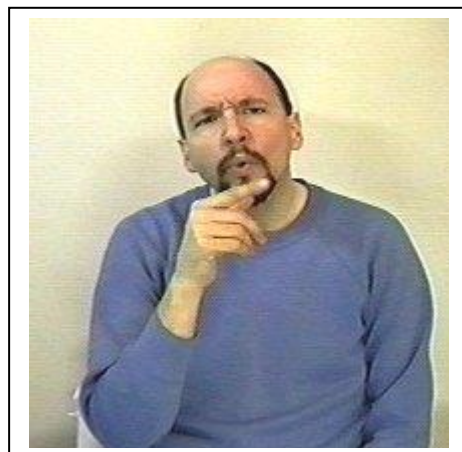
**MOLE**, that's who!

WHO has big eyes?

WHO says, "Whoo whoo"?

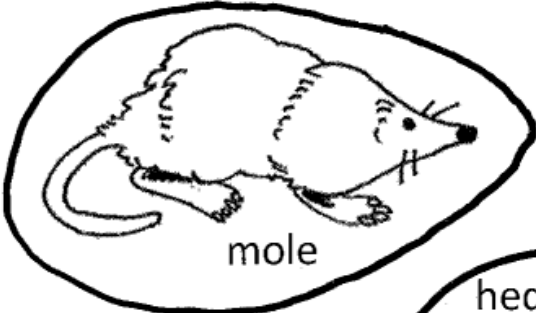
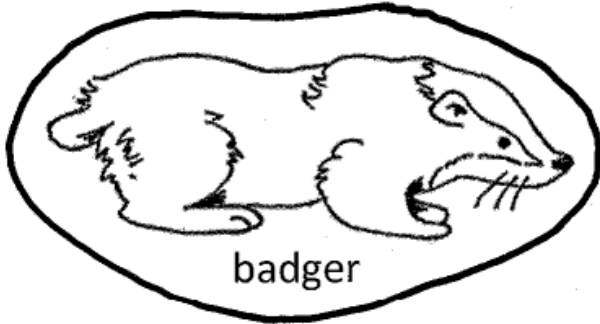
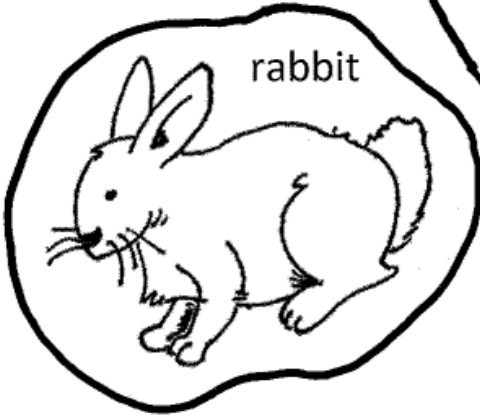
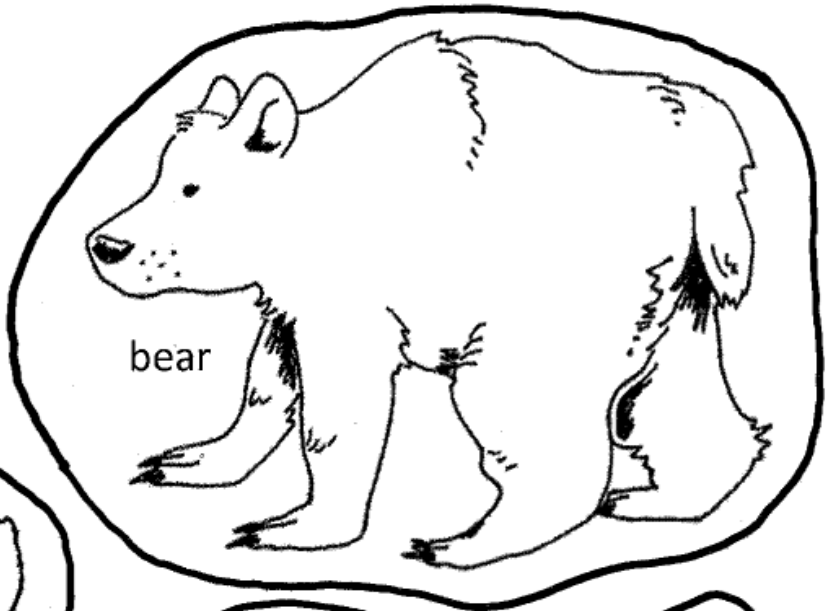
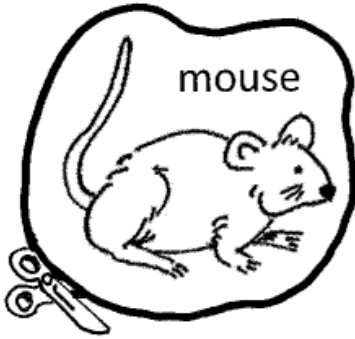
WHO has feathers?

**OWL**, that's who!



**WHO?**

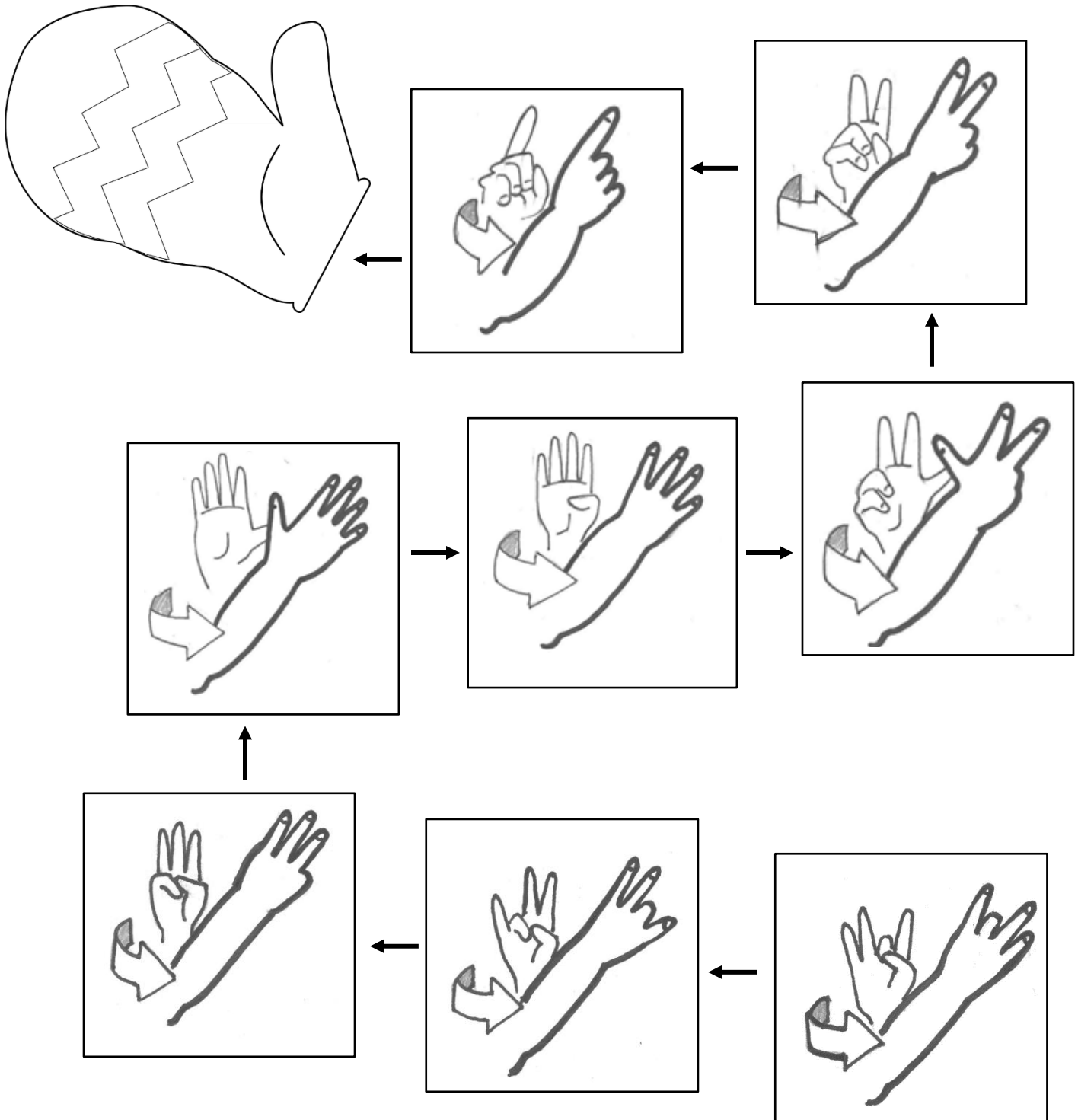
Animal Puppets



## Who Goes in the Mitten First?

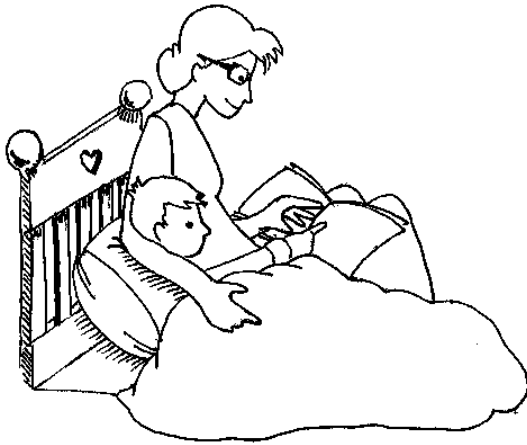
The animals crawled into the mitten one at a time. Can you remember who went in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.?

Use the animal puppets from the previous activity and put them in the order they went in the mitten. The signs for the ordinal numbers 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. are in the boxes below. Remember when you sign these numbers, you start with your palm facing away from you then twist your wrist so your palm faces towards you.



## Let's Be Together

Reading can be a cozy bedtime or afternoon cuddle session with your child, an exciting, interactive experience or a fun and creative moment spent together. There are numerous ways to read *The Mitten*. All forms of reading can be beneficial, especially if they are varied. Choose the best one suited to you and your child's needs at the time.



## Let's Create

### Leaf Prints

You will need:

- paint in assorted colors
- paint brushes
- paper and/or blank cards
- water
- scissors
- glue
- interesting things from nature (i.e. twigs, small pieces of moss, small pine cones, leaves)
- string or yarn to decorate (optional)

Go on a nature walk in a forest, your backyard or a park to collect different shaped leaves, and small interesting items from nature.

Clean and paint the surface of a leaf. Press the painted leaf onto the paper surface being careful not to smudge the paint. Repeat using different shaped leaves, other interesting things you found on your walk and different colors of paint.

Create a pattern directly on the paper or cut out to create a collage. Decorate with whatever you have left.