

Let's talk about Am I Big or Little?

By Margaret Park Bridges

How can I be big and little at the same time? This tender conversation between parent and child is a cheerful reminder that the best things come in all sizes. Size is an important early math concept. It is difficult for young children to understand since it must always be compared to something else. A child is big compared to a cat, but a child is small compared to an adult. Children need many examples of big and little to help them develop this concept.



One of the principles for reading with your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is to **"re-read on a 'storytelling' to 'story reading' continuum"**. The first time you read the book together *tell* your child the story by looking at the pictures and describing what it is that you see. Let your child guide you through the story. For very young children, this may mean letting them turn the pages before you are ready! As your child gets older you can actually read the story.

Let's Create

Play dough

You will need:

1 cup of flour

½ cup of salt

1 cup of water

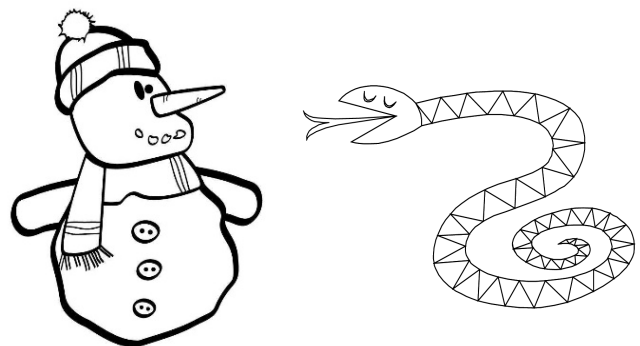
2 tbsp. of oil

2 tsp. of cream of tartar

Any colour of food colouring

Children will enjoy making big and little creatures using play dough. Play with your child and see who makes the smallest snake or the **biggest** snowman.

Mix all of the ingredients in a saucepan. Stir over medium heat until all of the ingredients come together (about 3 minutes). Knead until smooth. Store your play dough in a covered container in the refrigerator.



Let's Be Together

Stand or sit in front of a mirror so that you can see your face and your child's face. Ask your child to show you what their face looks like when they are happy, sad, frustrated, and scared. Show your child what your face looks like when you are happy, sad, frustrated, and scared.

"Mirror, mirror, who do you see?"



"I see a **happy** face looking at me!"

To sign MIRROR hold your hand out in front of you, palm facing in, and pretend your hand is the mirror.

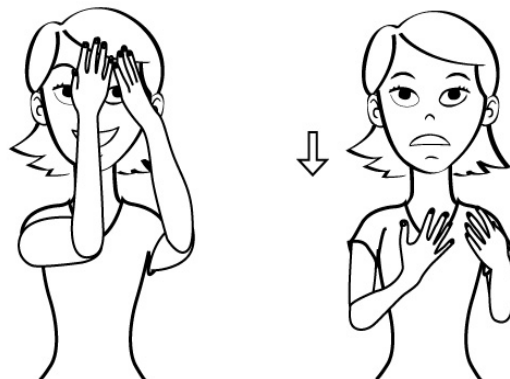
Who does the mirror see?

Facial expression is very important in ASL. When you are signing you will use the expression on your face much the same way hearing people use tone of voice. Facial expression, speed and intensity of the signing all help to communicate the tone of the message.

happy



sad



frustrated



scared



face



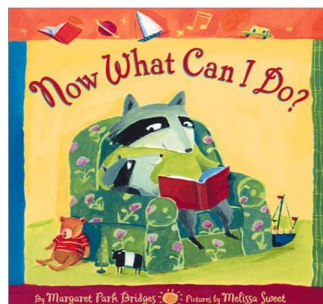
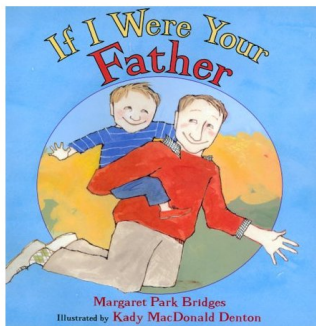
Early Words

To encourage your child's ASL language learning you can:

- respond to what your child is signing rather than how he signs it
- get comfortable acting things out and using gestures to express yourself

Read More About It!

Here are some other books by Margaret Park Bridges:



Let's Play Together

Big/Little Sorting Game

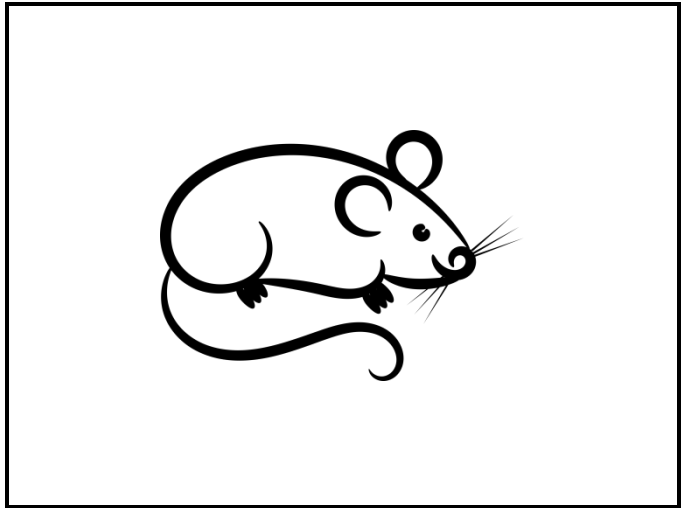
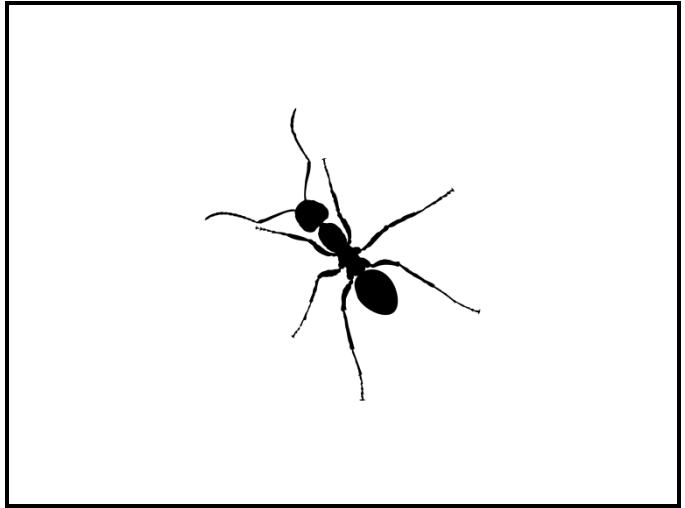
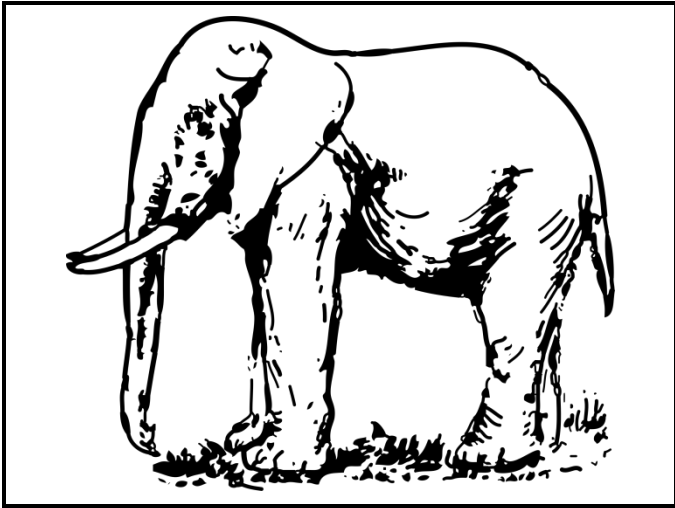
Print and cut out the cards of big and little items on the following 3 pages. Your child can sort the big and little pictures onto the appropriate pair of boots.

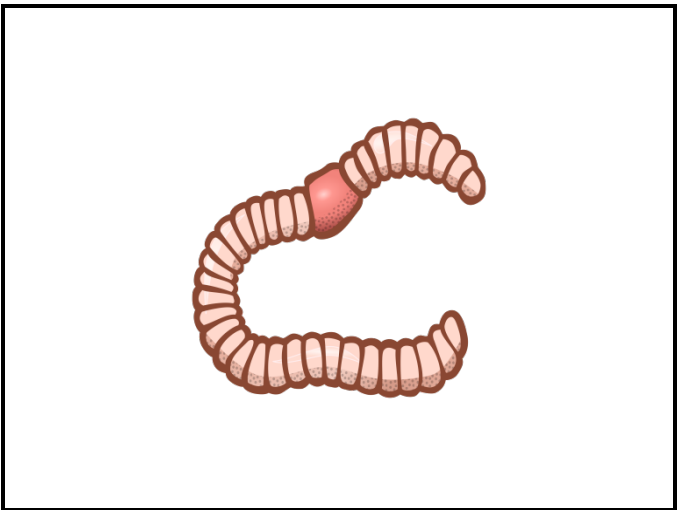
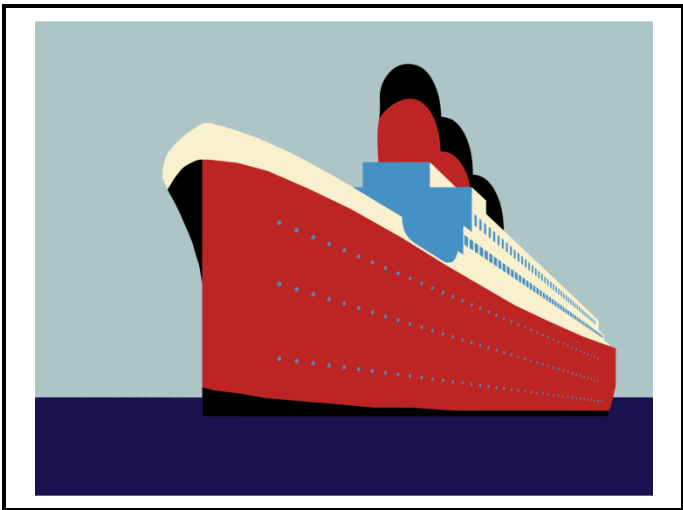
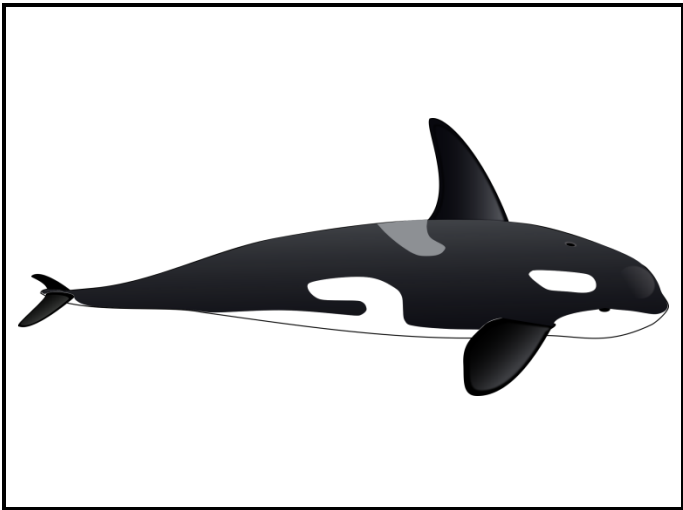
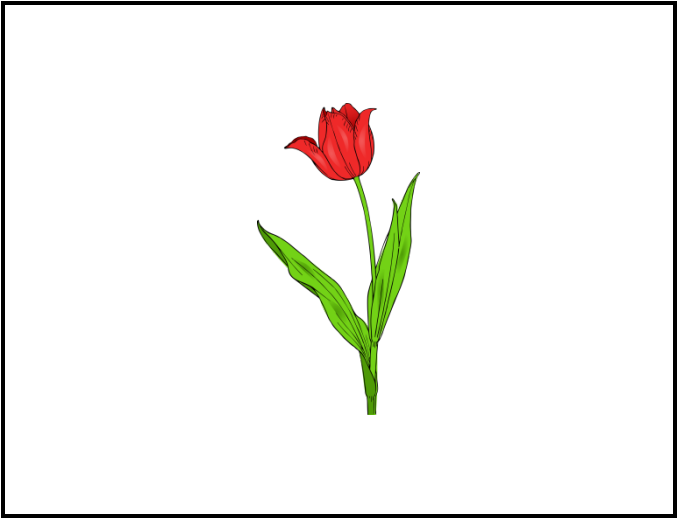
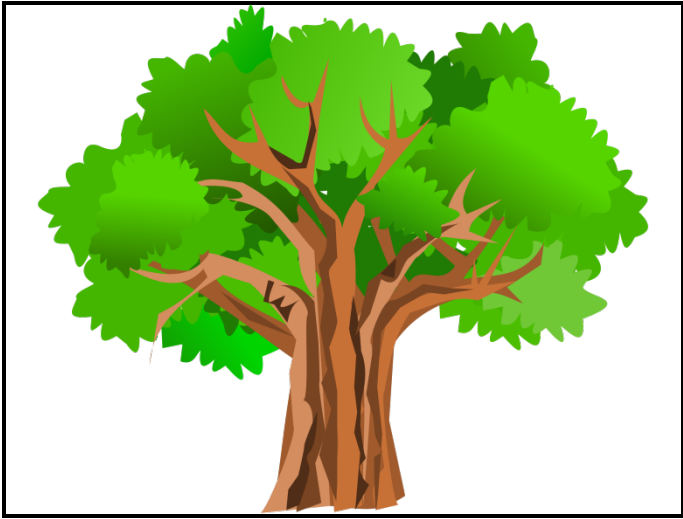
Big

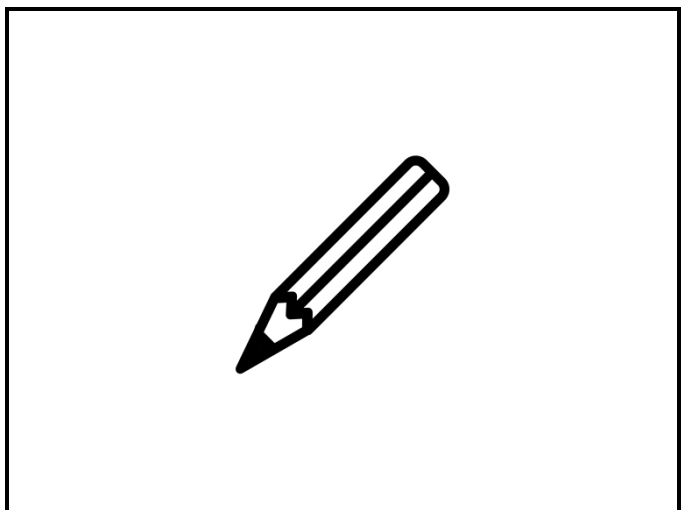
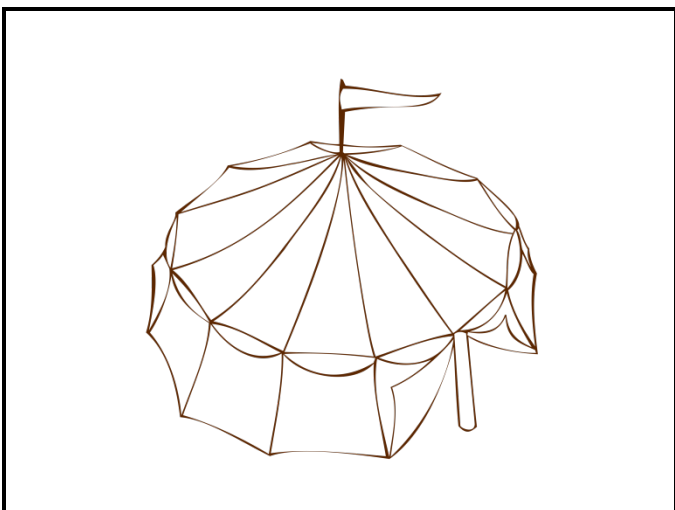
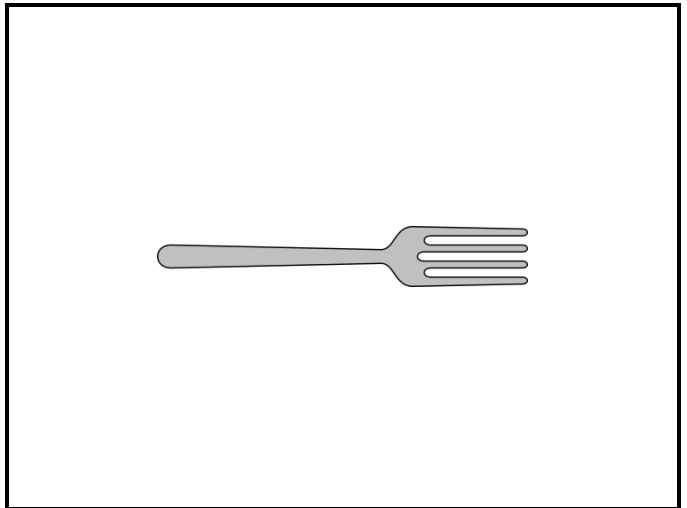
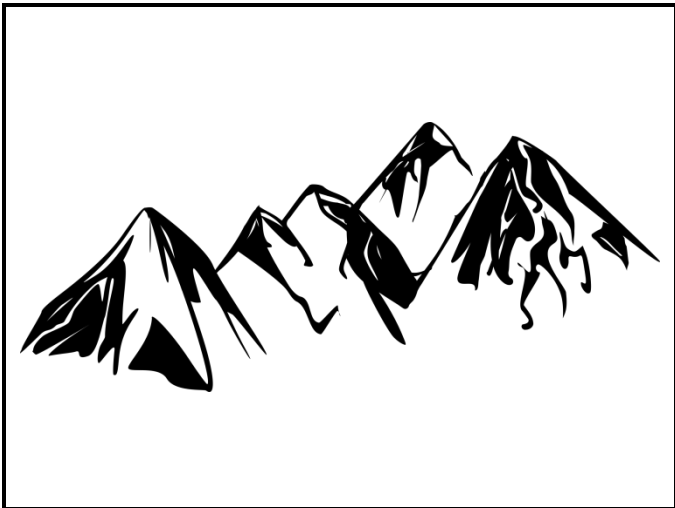
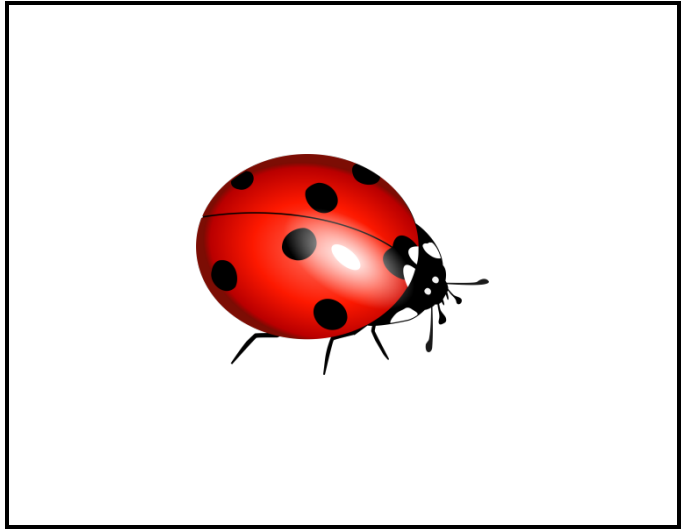
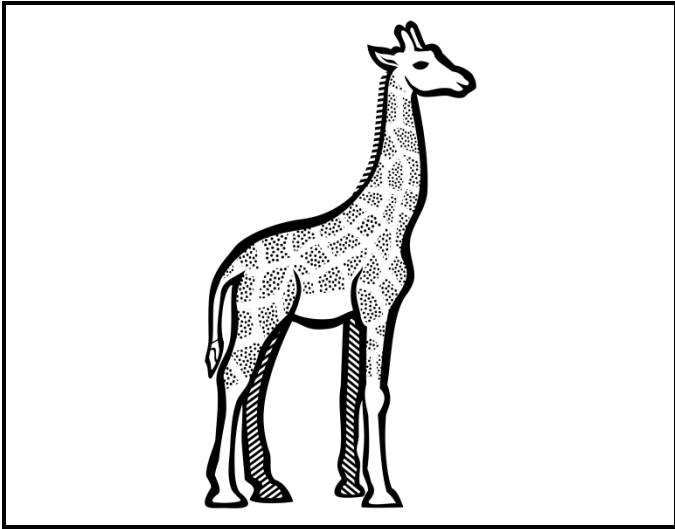


Little









Let's Play Together

Colour each of the BIG shapes **BLUE**.

Colour each of the small shapes **RED**.

