

## Let's talk about Big Sarah's Little Boots

By Paulette Bourgeois

This story is about a little girl named Sarah, who learns she is growing up when her favourite yellow boots don't fit anymore. Sarah feels a lot of different emotions throughout the story. At first you can see from Sarah's face and body that she is not happy about getting bigger and needing new boots. But eventually she is able to share her old boots with her brother. How does she feel when she tests out her new boots? As you become familiar with the story and more comfortable signing it, you can add more of these details to your storytelling. In ASL, facial expressions and body language are so important for communicating how someone feels just as the illustrations bring the story to life on the pages of the book. Imagine if Sarah was tugging the boot from her dog's mouth and her face was blank, not scrunched up in effort. We know from the tips for reading to your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project to **"be dramatic. Play with the signs and exaggerate your facial expressions to show different emotions."** It may feel a little awkward at first, but exaggerating your facial expressions will help the story come to life, as well as help your child learn how to use facial expressions when they sign.

## Let's Play with Rhymes

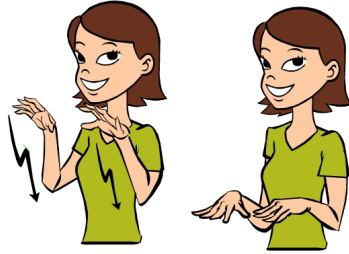
ASL rhymes can involve counting and repeating an action. We are going to practice counting to 10 and jumping in the puddles just like Sarah did. Have your child jump in the puddle for the number of times they've counted.

Rain, puddle, 1 ... (Jump one time)  
Rain, puddle, 2 ... (Jump two times, etc.)  
Rain, puddle, 3 ...  
Rain, puddle, 4 ...  
Rain, puddle, 5 ...  
Rain, puddle, 6 ...  
Rain, puddle, 7 ...  
Rain, puddle, 8 ...  
Rain, puddle, 9 ...  
Rain, puddle, 10... (Jump ten times)  
Finished

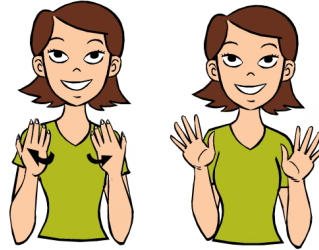


Here are some signs to use with this rhyme:

**Rain**



**Finished**



**Numbers**

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

**Puddle**

Sign **water** then show the size of the puddle on the ground.  
You can make it whatever size you want!



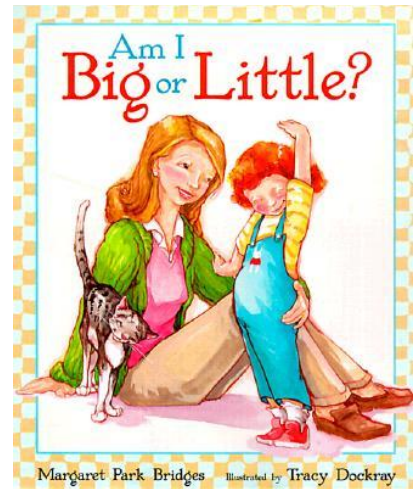
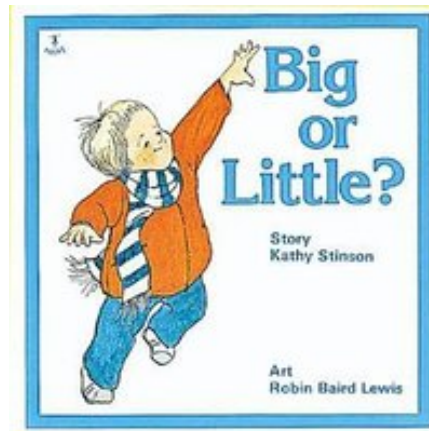
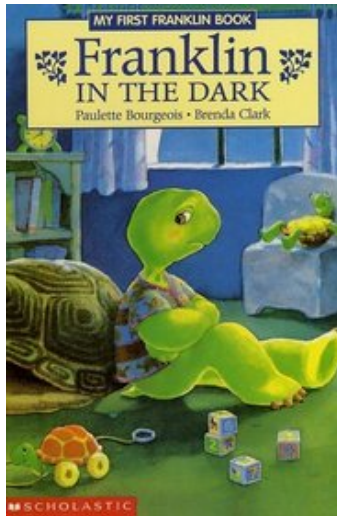
**ASL Tip**

Often when describing in ASL, we don't use big or small to describe something. We show big or small with our hands and facial expression.

Try this with puddle! Start by making a really small puddle, and each time it rains making it a little bit bigger!

## Read More About it!

You may be familiar with the author-illustrator duo of Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark. They are the creators behind the very popular *Franklin* series of books. The board book version of *Franklin in the Dark* is available as an ASL RAPP pack. Other picture books about getting bigger your child might enjoy are: *Big or Little* by Kathy Stinson and *Am I Big or Little?* by Margaret Park Bridges. This title is available as an ASL RAPP pack.



## Let's Be Together

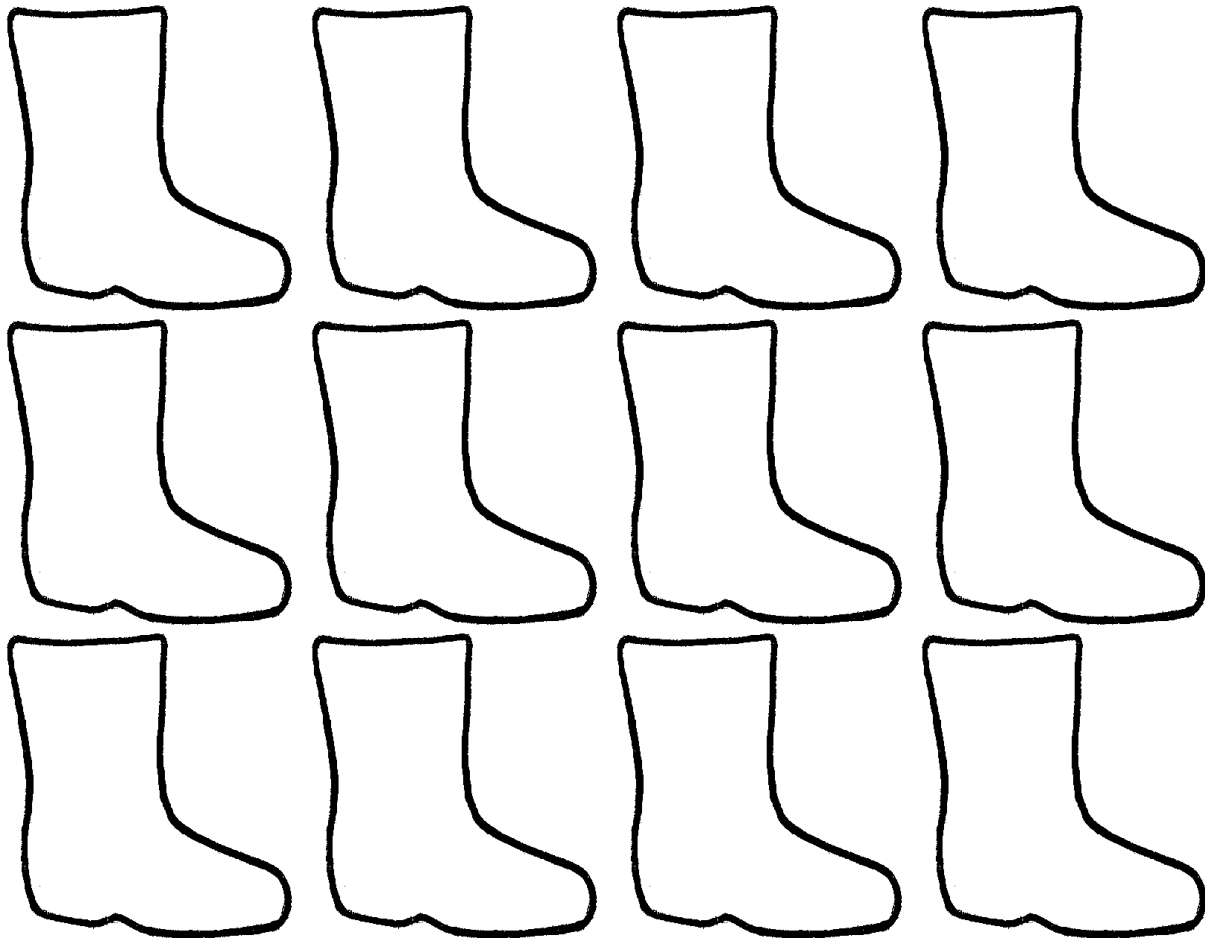
Sarah's mother tries to explain to Sarah that her boots didn't shrink, but that she grew. She shows Sarah by measuring her on the growth chart in her room. If you have kept a growth chart for your child, this is a good time to remind her about it. Sarah and her mom also compare their handprints and footprints to show how people grow and change. If your child is too young to understand measurement with numbers, you can try using other things to measure with such as hand or footprints. Trace your child's foot several times and cut them out. Now find

something to measure such as a teddy bear. Lay the footprints beside the teddy bear heel to toe in a line. How many footprints tall is Teddy? How long is your child's bed? How tall is her sister? The possibilities of learning about measurement this way are endless and fun!



## Let's Count

When Sarah's mom takes her to the store to buy new boots, the salesman shows her many different pairs of boots. A "pair" means 2 of something. Colour the pairs of boots below. Count the boots, then practice counting by 2's. Afterwards, you can cut out and glue each boot to a small piece of construction paper and make a memory matching game.



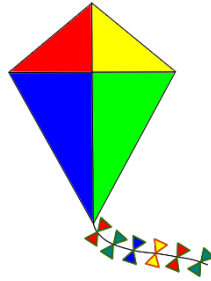
## Let's Play Together

Which ways did Sarah try to stretch her boots and which ways did she not? Cut out the cards on the next page and turn them over. When you flip the card, ask your child if Sarah tried to stretch her boots this way. The last page of this tip sheet shows the sequence of the ways Sarah really did try to stretch her boots. You can match the pictures to the signs.

Pouring water in her boots



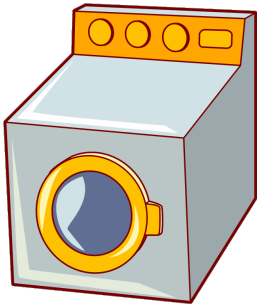
Flying her boots like a kite



Pulling with her dog



Putting her boots in the washing machine



Planting her boots in the garden



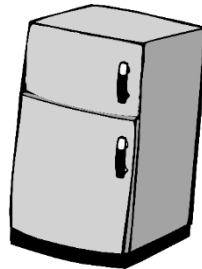
Blowing her boots up like a balloon



Cast a magic spell on them



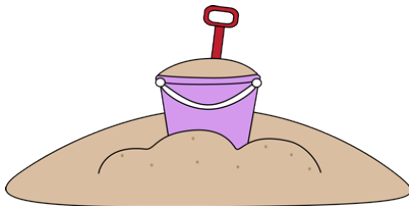
Putting her boots in the fridge



Putting her boots under a BIG pile of books



Burying her boots in the sand



Pulling with her bicycle




Filling her boots with rocks



Signs for how Sarah tried to stretch her boots

**Stretch**  
No sign! Just act out how Sarah stretched her boots!


**Planted**



Sarah tried to plant her boots in the garden

The illustration shows two identical figures of Sarah. Each figure has her hands clasped together in front of her chest, with an upward-pointing arrow next to her hands, indicating the action of planting.

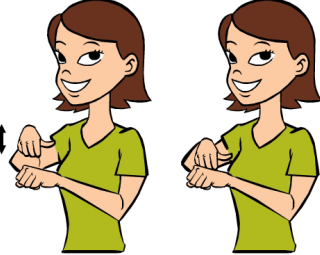
**Bicycle**



Sarah pulled the boots with her bicycle

The illustration shows two identical figures of Sarah. Each figure has circular arrows around her hands, indicating a pulling or cycling motion.

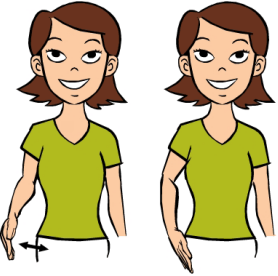
**Rocks**



Sarah filled her boots up with rocks

The illustration shows two identical figures of Sarah. Each figure has a vertical double-headed arrow next to her hands, indicating the action of filling or moving rocks.

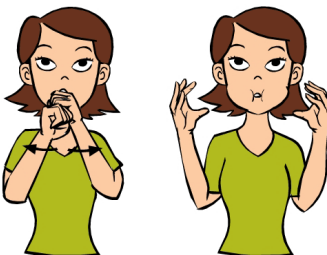
**Dog**



Sarah tugged her boots with the dog

The illustration shows two identical figures of Sarah. Each figure has a horizontal arrow pointing to the right next to her hand, indicating a tugging motion.

**Blow**



Sarah tried to blow the boots up like a balloon

The illustration shows two identical figures of Sarah. Each figure has her hands near her mouth as if blowing, with one figure's hands held up to represent inflated boots.