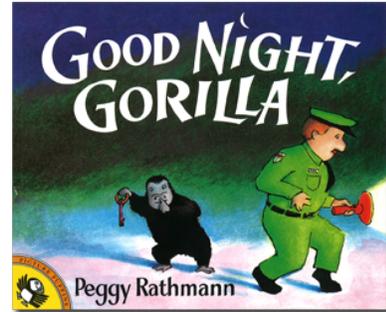


Let's talk about Good Night, Gorilla

By Peggy Rathmann

It is time for the animals at the zoo to go to bed. So the sleepy zookeeper checks on each one in its cage and says "Good night" before going to bed himself. But the mischievous little gorilla has other plans for bedtime. There are very few words in this book, and what words there are are repeated throughout the story so your child will soon be able to repeat them herself and feel the confidence of reading the story. How we read and sign those same words varies.



One of the principles for reading with your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is to "use ASL variations to sign repetitive English phrases". You can see how Kathy signs "Good night" differently even though it is the same English word. She is able to depict the different animals' characters by varying her signing style. Someone using their voice would also vary the pitch to convey the animals' size and characteristics. So whether we are reading or signing those same English words, how we do so varies.

Let's Play Together

Sign it Big, Sign it Little, Sign it Happy, Sign it Sad

Here is a game to play with your child that can give you practice signing repetitive phrases or words in different ways. Take the sign for "good night", for example, and try signing it in different ways. How would you sign "good night" big? How would you sign "good night" little? How would you sign it happy? How would you sign it sad? This activity will help get you comfortable using your body and facial expressions.

Here's How to Play:

On the next page is a list of adjectives to print. You can cut them out and turn them upside down on a table. Choose the sign you are going to use. It could be "good night". It could be your favourite sign, whatever you like. Then pick an adjective from the table. Now you have to make your sign that way. You don't need to know the sign for these words. You are using the emotion.

Did you notice the colour of the keys match the colour of the animals' cages?

Ask your child which colour key the gorilla needs to open the cage.





Here's an example. Let's pretend that Kathy's favourite sign is 'cake'.

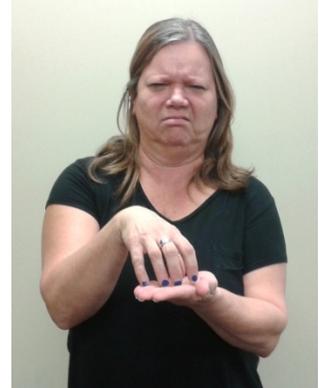
Here's how she might sign it 'Excited'.



Here's how she might sign it if she picked the emotion card for 'Bored'.

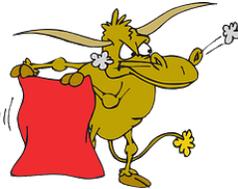


Well you get the idea. Now you have a try!
The emotion words are below.



Adjectives for the game *Sign it Big, Sign it Little, Sign it Happy, Sign it Sad*

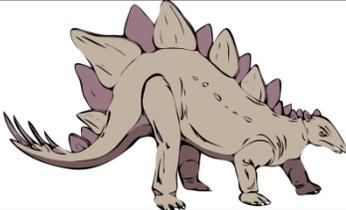
Excited 

Angry 

Bored 

Sad 

Tiny 

Huge 

Tall 

Fast 

Slow 

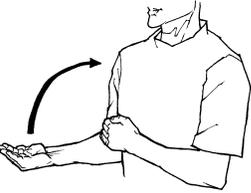
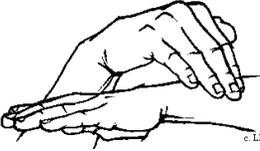
Short 

Let's Learn about Language

Time of Day

When indicating time of day in ASL, it can help to think of the “base” hand (the one that doesn’t move) as the horizon and the “dominant” hand (the one that moves) as the sun.



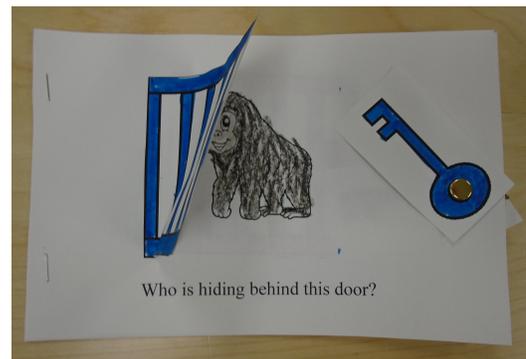
<p>In the morning, the sun comes up from behind the horizon (so the base hand is on the inside of the elbow).</p> 	<p>At noon, the sun is straight above the horizon (so the base is now on the outside of the elbow).</p> 	<p>In the afternoon, the sun is lower in the sky. The angle varies depending on time in the afternoon.</p> 	<p>At night, the sun is going down behind the horizon. The base is closer to the wrist now.</p> 
--	--	--	--

Let's Create

Lift-the-flap book

(Inspired by: ChitChatandSmallTalk.Blogspot.com)

In this tip sheet you have pages of animals, keys and cage doors to make the booklet. You will need 6 brass fasteners if you want the keys to be able to move.



What to do:

1. Print and colour the animals, keys and cage doors. You can work with your child to colour the cage doors and the keys so they match—one key and one door each are the same colour.
2. Cut the pages with animals in half so that each animal is on a separate page. Staple the pages so that you have a booklet. Cut out the cage doors and the keys.
3. Glue one cage door on each page of the booklet so that it covers the animal, but not the sentence at the bottom of the page. *Remember to glue just along the left side of the door so that the door will still open.

4. Fasten a key to each page of the booklet on the right side (using a brass fastener) so that the key can turn and keep the cage door closed. *If you do not have brass fasteners, you can glue the key on the right side and fold it.

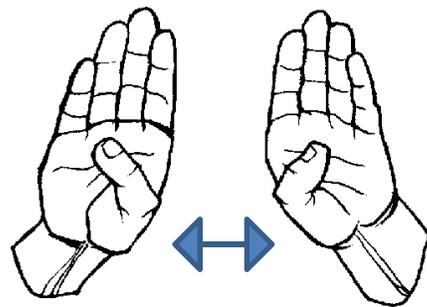
Now you are ready to read the book with your child. The following question is one way to sign the English sentence at the bottom of the page. Refer back to the video if you need to for the animal signs.

Hide door who?

Hide



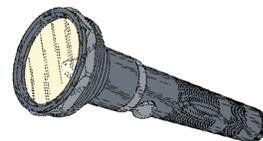
Door

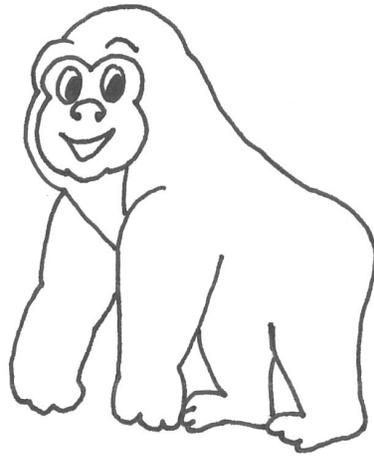


Who (wiggle index finger)?

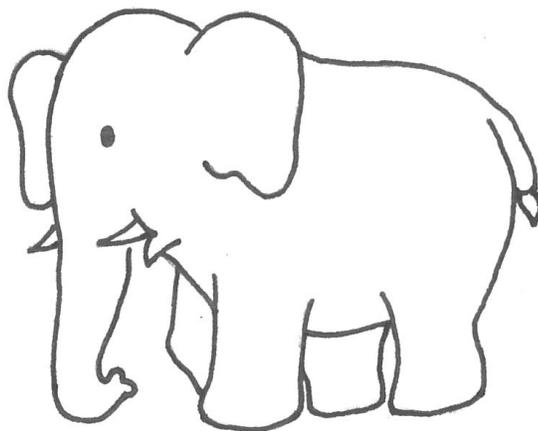


Going to bed can be a difficult time for children. You can help your child get ready for bed like the zookeeper in the story. Using a flashlight, go around your child's room with her saying good night to all of her toys, etc.

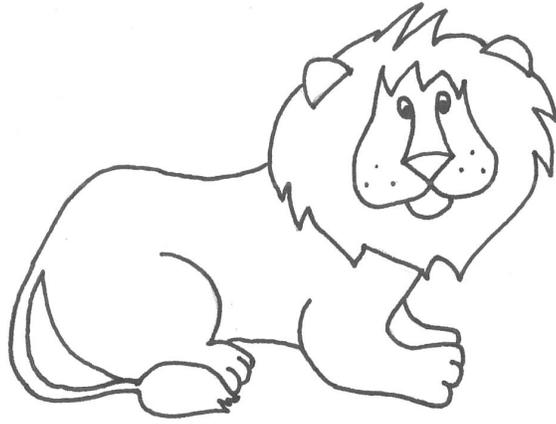




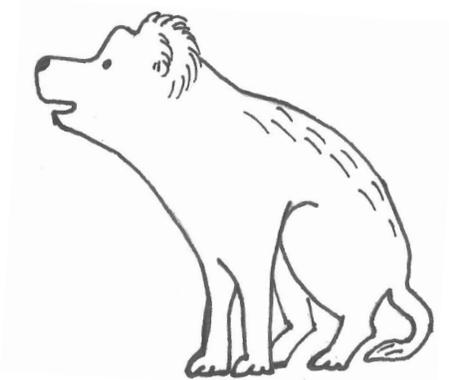
Who is hiding behind this door?



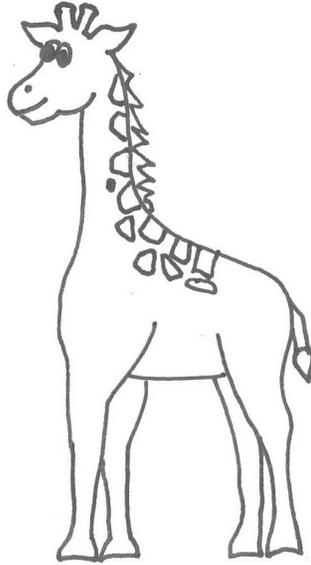
Who is hiding behind this door?



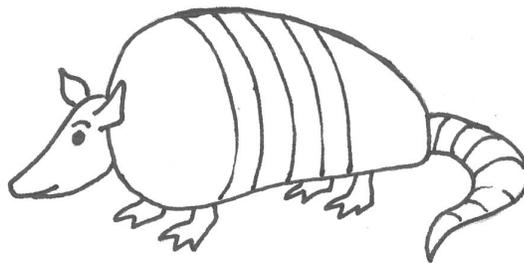
Who is hiding behind this door?



Who is hiding behind this door?



Who is hiding behind this door?



Who is hiding behind this door?

