

Let's talk about Pancakes for Breakfast

By Tomie de Paola

One of the first things you may notice about this book is that it has no words. This can be intimidating at first because we're not quite sure what to do without the words to guide us. It forces us to pay attention to the pictures (more than we might normally do) to tell what is happening in the story. Despite how challenging it may be for us as adults, wordless books are great for beginning readers because they can tell the story in their own words and quickly gain the confidence of being a reader. By encouraging your child to focus on the pictures in order to tell the story and to guess what might happen next, you are helping them develop valuable reading strategies.



One of the strategies put forward in the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is that, "**Deaf readers engage in role play to extend concepts.**" If you find your child is losing interest in the story, you can try giving him a role to play. For example, when the woman notices the milk is gone, your child could be the one to milk the cow or churn the butter. By taking a more active role in the storytelling, your child will gain a deeper understanding of it. If you've done any of these activities before, visiting a farm or maple sugar bush, it is a good time to remind your child of this experience. "Remember we went..." It will help your child connect to the story.

Let's Play Together

Here is an action rhyme that has been adapted for ASL. You can try signing it on your child's tummy. It will make her giggle to have a pancake pile on her stomach!

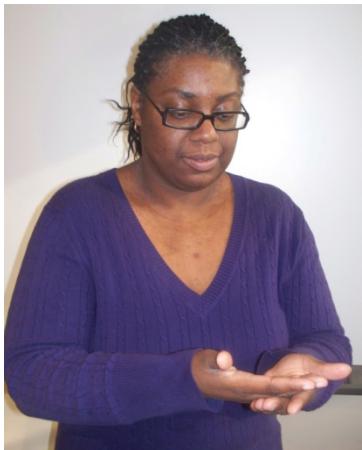
Mix a pancake, stir a pancake, (pretend to stir)



Pour it in a pan. (pretend to pour)



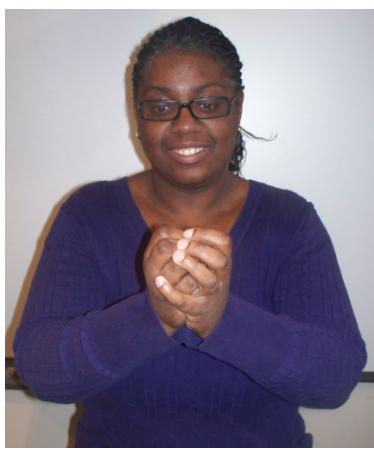
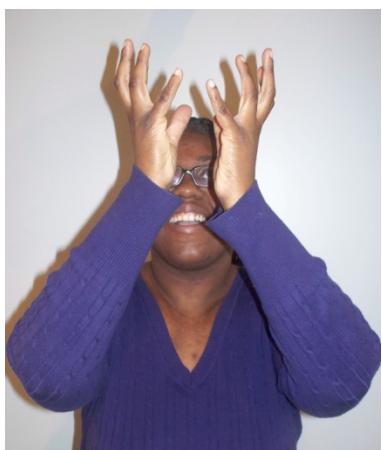
Fry a pancake, (pretend to fry)



Toss a pancake, (toss it up)



Catch it if you can. (catch in hands)



Let's Be Together

Make Pancakes

You can make your favourite pancake recipe or follow the one that appears in the story. Look on the video for the signs of the ingredients. If you haven't tried cooking with your children before, it is a great learning opportunity. They will learn about math as you count and measure. They will learn about science as the batter changes form. Not to mention the new words and signs they will learn!



Start simple and pick a good time of day when your child is not too hungry or tired. It is a good idea to have the ingredients and materials prepared ahead of time. Decide what is a safe job for your child to do, for example, adding the ingredients and mixing. Show your child how to do the job, then let them try.

Let's Create

What do you like on your pancakes?

If you aren't up for making pancakes with your child, you can always do the next best thing—make paper pancakes! You will need cut out paper pancakes, a paper plate and some pictures of toppings. Cut out the pancakes and glue them on the plate. Have your child colour their favourite topping, cut them out and glue it on their pancakes. Yummy! The signs for some of the toppings are below.

Apple



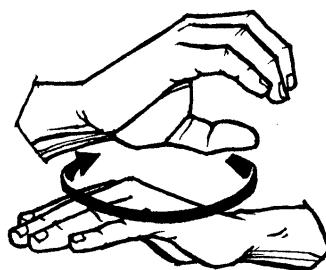
Strawberry



Banana



Chocolate



Jam

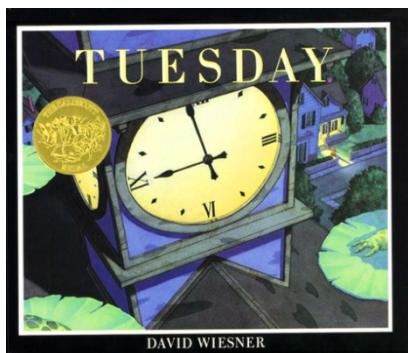
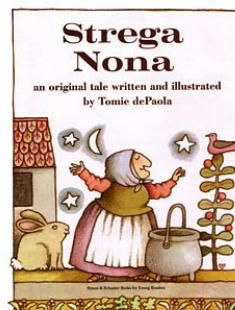


Peanut Butter



Read More About It!

Another good choice by the same author/illustrator of this book is *Strega Nona*. It is about a magic pot of pasta that gets out of control.



If your child enjoyed this wordless, Tuesday by David Wiesner is another fun wordless book which is also available as an ASL RAPP pack.