

Let's talk about Red is Best

By Kathy Stinson



Red is Best is the story of a 3 year old's stubborn color preference. The illustrations are simple and child centered. Each page is punctuated by red. Kelly's mom doesn't understand about red. Sure, the brown mitts are warmer, but the red mitts make better snowballs. And the red boots aren't just for rain; they take bigger steps rain or shine. And, yes, I can jump higher in my red stockings! Red is definitely best.

One of the principles for reading with your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is, "**Adjust the signing style to fit the story.**" Think about Kelly's mom; how is she feeling? Frustrated? Amused? Perhaps a bit of both! Think about Kelly; how is she feeling? Emphatic? Stubborn? Triumphant? In spoken English we use tone to express the emotion behind the words. The words may stay the same, but as the tone changes so does their meaning. In ASL, this layering of meaning is done through the systematic grammatical use of facial expressions and head or body positions. These nonmanual markers (NMs) comprise a number of independent channels: the head, the shoulders, the body, the eyebrows, the eyeballs (gaze), the eyelids, the nose, the mouth (upper lip, lower lip, mid-lip, lip corners), the tongue, the cheeks, and the chin. Each of these is capable of independent articulation and, with layering, complex combinations can be produced that effect the meaning of the signed message. Read the story a number of times making changes to your facial expression and body position to better reflect Kelly and her mom as they interact through the story.

Let's Play with Rhymes

Sign the ASL rhyme taking turns with your child. The tickle at the end is the best part!

Favourite socks

Favourite jacket

Favourite boots

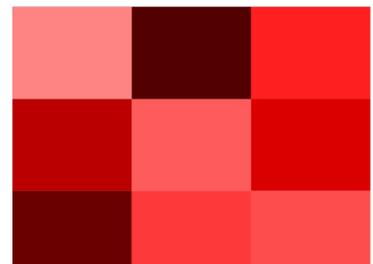
Favourite mitts

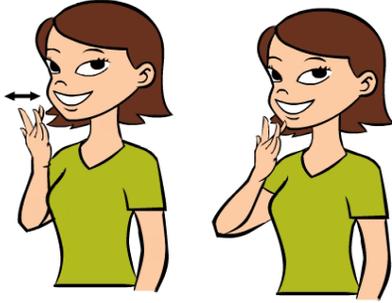
Favourite cup

Favourite you – end in tickles!

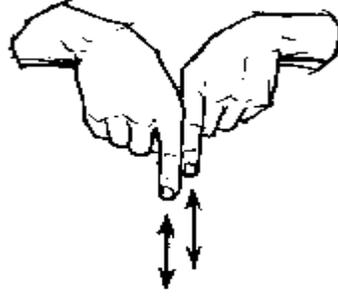
Here is something you can try when reading the book together:

With your child, talk about her favourite colour. What does she have that is that colour? Why is it her favourite?





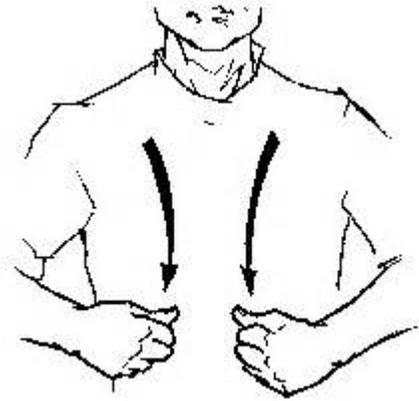
favourite



socks



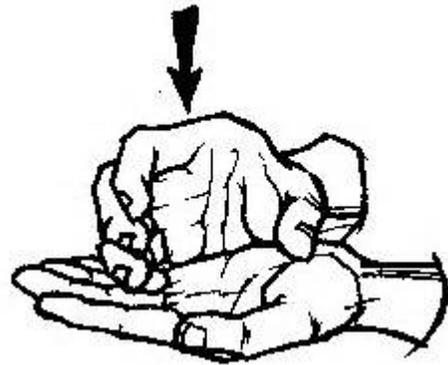
boots



jacket



mitts



cup

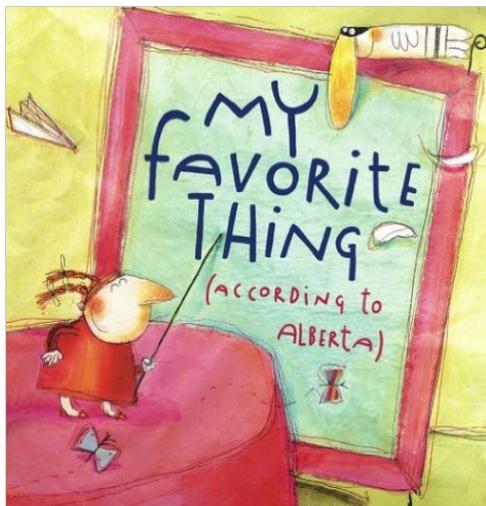
Let's Be Together

You can have some fun with the colour red at meal times. Have a 'red' lunch or dinner after you read the story with your child. Let's see...red pepper slices, red apple slices, cherry tomatoes, red jam/jelly on toast or a bagel, strawberry yogurt, red jello, spaghetti and red tomato sauce, strawberries, raspberries, cherries...see what foods you can find at the grocery store that are red. Enjoy!

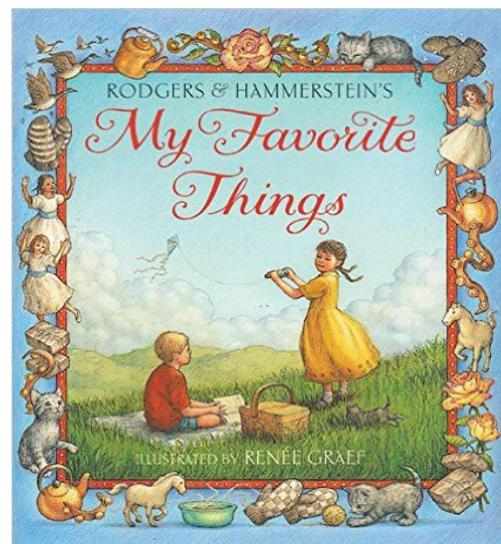


Read More About It!

Here are 2 other books about favourite things for you to try.



By Emily Jenkins



By Richard Rodgers

when in doubt, wear RED.

Let's Create

This visual activity promotes natural curiosity and encourages the imagination. You will need one sheet of red cellophane and a template for a card stock picture frame.

Colour and cut out the picture frame. Glue the cellophane around the edges so that you have a 'red' window.

Go for a walk and encourage your child to look at familiar objects through the cellophane window. You can do this inside and outside!

How do familiar things change? Does he ask questions about what makes the objects change colour? Does he want to experiment with different colours?

