

Let's talk about The Snowy Day

By Ezra Jack Keats

The Snowy Day is a classic story about a little boy that wakes up to a huge snowfall overnight. He is so excited to go outside and enjoy all the fun things he can do in the snow—making a snowman, climbing snowhills, even just making footprints in the snow. Simone expresses the same wonder the little boy feels using her facial expressions as she looks around at all the snow. Remember your facial expressions carry key information about the character's reaction or emotional experience.

One of the principles for reading with your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is to, **"provide a positive and reinforcing environment."** One way you can do this is to accept your child's attempts as they learn new signs and respond to their meaning rather than how it is signed. Model the correct sign and move on. You want to be just as flexible in the storytelling process. It should be a fun experience as you mutually discover the story. If your child interjects with a question or comment, go with it. If your child feels valued while you read together, it will be an experience they will want to return to again and again.

Let's Be Together

S - N - O - W

Sign each letter in the word "snow". As you sign each letter, wiggle your hand gently as in the sign for snow, like snow falling down. Move your sign and your body all the way to the ground, like a snowflake falling down.

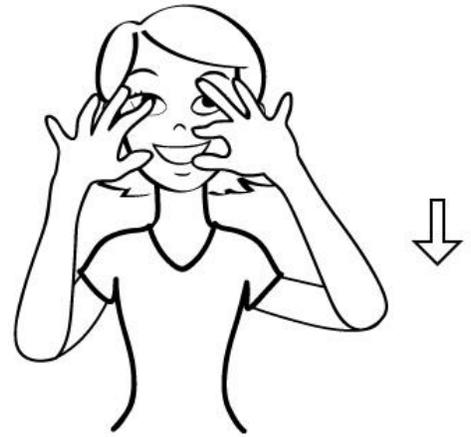


Learning and Language

There are 5 basics of ASL signs. Each sign has a particular handshape, movement, palm orientation, location and non-manual markers. If you were to change even one of these features, it can change the meaning of the sign. For example, if you change the movement of the sign for CHAIR to two taps instead of one, then you change the word to SIT. This is similar to English where we can change the meaning of a word by just changing one letter. Change the "C" in CAT to an "H" and you have a very different word.



Sign the word “snow”. How is your snow falling? Is it a gentle flurry or a blizzard? How would you show that with your movements? By changing only the movement (one of the basics of ASL signs—see the box above) of the sign for SNOW, you can change the meaning. If you wiggle your fingers down slowly then that will convey a light snow. If you sign SNOW faster it will mean a heavy snow.



Let's Explore Together

Just like Peter, you can bring a snowball inside to see what happens. On a snowy day have your child bring in some snow and put it in a bowl on the table. (No snow? Try an ice cube.) Have your child predict what will happen to the snow. After a while, check to see what it has changed into. For older children, you can time how long it takes to melt and measure how much water is produced. If your child is still interested, put the water into the freezer and see what happens to it. This is a great introduction to the scientific processes of melting and freezing and the change in state from solid to liquid.



Let's Play Together

Draw What I Sign

In this story, Peter has a dream that he is looking out the window at a sunny day and all the snow has melted. Can you remember a dream that you have had? If not, can you imagine something that you would like to do on a snowy day? Draw it in on a blank paper. Once you have drawn your



scene, give your child a piece of paper.

Now sign your drawing for your child and have her draw what she understands. When you are finished, compare your drawings. It can be fun to see how what we signed was interpreted! It can also help us learn from our mistakes in a fun way!

Now trade places. Have your child make the first drawing. When she is finished, she can sign it for you while you draw what she signs.

Let's Create

Snow Dough

Even if you don't have snow to go outside and play with right now, here is a recipe to make "snow" to play with inside.

2 cups of corn starch

1/3 to 1/2 cup of vegetable oil

3-4 tablespoons of silver glitter

Mix the ingredients together and use your fingers to rub the oil into the corn starch until combined.



Read More About It!

If your child is interested in more books about freezing and melting, *Sadie and the Snowman* is a good choice. Also available in our ASL RAPP collection, this book follows Sadie and her snowman through the seasons.

When you read books on a similar theme with your child, try to help them make the connection between the books. You can say, "Remember when we read...or...That's the same as..." Recalling that this book is similar to another one you have read, helps with comprehension.

