

Let's talk about When Rachel Grows Up...

A Montreal Dreamstory

By Dara Schechter and Jim Flynn



When Rachel Grows Up... is written in English, Spanish and French. The story follows a conversation between Rachel and her mother about her dreams for Rachel when she grows up. The mother leads and then Rachel chimes in building on the vision of her future her mother has suggested. What are your dreams for your child? What are your child's dreams for herself? One of the principles for reading with your deaf child offered by the Le Clerc Centre's Shared Reading Project is, "**Act out the story after you have read it.**" Go through the book a second time acting out the story. Follow the pictures and take turns with your child. Don't worry about the signing. Imagine that you are Rachel floating in the air like a butterfly with no worries or cares. Imagine that you are Rachel rocketing through the night sky, waving your magic wand to colour the night.

Let's Create

Play dough

You will need:

1 cup of flour

1 cup of water

½ cup of salt

2 tbsp. of oil

2 tsp. of cream of tartar

Any colour of food colouring

Like Rachel, your child may enjoy imagining himself as a baker. He could make pastries and cakes and muffins on trays...just like in the story. This easy play dough recipe is great to try at home!

Mix all of the ingredients in a saucepan. Stir over medium heat until all of the ingredients come together (about 3 minutes). Knead until smooth. Store your play dough in a covered container in the refrigerator.

Let's Be Together

The Never Ending Story Game

Let your child start to tell a story, giving the first sentence. You continue the story by giving the next sentence. Each of you adds to the story with new actions and new characters. To finish the story start a countdown for the last 3 -10 sentences. The number of sentences will depend on the developmental level of your child. Wrap it up and end with "The End." This is a terrific way for both you and your child to practice your ASL signing together! Encouraging your child's imagination is important for his development. Imagining lets children have in fantasy what they may not be able to have in reality. We can't always have what we want, nor is it always best to. Like Rachel, your child can imagine racing with the wind, peddling so fast that his bike will grow wings. Imagination can also expand your child's vocabulary. As children imagine a world far from their own, they'll encounter a host of things they have yet to name. Whether they ask a parent, a friend, or a teacher, they'll start to develop a vocabulary of experiences that are far from what they are familiar with in their own daily lives.



Read More About It!

Here are some other books to encourage your child's imagination:

