

 READING to and with your children is so very important for brain development, language development, family bonding, and academic achievement...This is a list of children, youth, and teen books that feature characters who are deaf and hard of hearing. Many thanks to Georgia Pathway for compiling this list!

### Birth to 4 Years

Max and His Hearing Aids by Emily Mikoski

a children's book based off of a mother's experiences with her deaf son's experiences to provide a resource for families who are in the midst of their child's hearing journey.

Now I Can Hear! by Connie Losacano

Ranvir Cannot Hear by Genevieve Yusuf

This story takes place in India and is about a little hard of hearing elephant that goes on an adventure to look for his hearing. While he is traveling he meets new friends who help Ranvir find his special talent and understand all that he can do. This book includes British and American sign language alphabets as it is a book written by Genevieve Yusuf, who specializes in writing language books for children. Each time this book is purchased 10 percent goes to the Rangammal School in India for children with hearing loss.

Freddie and the Fairy by Julia Donaldson and Karen George

Bessie-Belle is a fairy who Freddie rescues from being stuck in a tree. To repay him for his help, Bessie-Belle offers to grant him some wishes. Freddie wishes for all sorts of different pets, but because Bessie-belle wears a hearing aid and can't hear very well she mishears Freddie and keeps getting his wishes wrong. This story is aimed at both deaf children as well as hearing children, as the story is all about deaf awareness and how talking directly to a deaf person and not mumbling can help them to understand you and not get things wrong. This one is Harry's absolute favorite books at the moment!

Itsy Bitsy Spider by Annie Kubler

This is part of the Sign and Singalong series and is a really fun song to learn the signs for. I think it's great for both hearing and deaf children to learn this classic nursery rhyme with the signs alongside.

Hands and Hearts

This story follows a mother and daughter as they spend a day at the beach. The mother and daughter swim, dance, build sandcastles and communicate through American Sign Language. The book teaches the reader how to learn 15 ASL signs and includes instructional sidebars on how to learn the sign. The book is also beautifully illustrated, and shows the special bond between a mother and child.

A Birthday for Ben

A Birthday for Ben, written by Kate Gaynor and illustrated by Karen Quirke, introduces deafness to young readers. Ben is turning 7 and doesn't want to have a birthday party, but when his friends surprise him, he realises how easy it can be for everyone to join in. The story shows difficulties that a child who is deaf may face and how it is important to include everyone in games and activities

Crocodile Meatloaf by Nancy Simpson Levene

A chapter book that chronicles the life of Rachel, a deaf girl who has recently entered the sixth grade.

Going with the Flow by Claire Blatchford

A story about Mark, whose embarrassment over his deafness and anger over changing schools brings about a new awareness of himself and adjustment to his new surroundings.

A Place for Grace

A Place for Grace is about a small dog named Grace, who finds out she's too small to become a seeing-eye dog. Grace then meets Charlie, who is deaf. After seeing Grace save a boy from getting hit by a car,

Charlie believes Grace would make a great hearing dog for people who are deaf. So Charlie decides to help Grace become his own hearing dog.

#### River of Hands

River of Hands contains four stories written by young Deaf authors and Deaf illustrators through a project by the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf. The four stories "A Fishy Story", "ZZZZZZ", "BUT" and "Unlucky Charm" introduce Deaf characters in a fun way. The book includes instructions on some American Sign Language (ASL) signs, quirky illustrations, and information about Deaf culture.

#### Shay and Ivy: Beyond the Kingdom

Shay and Ivy: Beyond the Kingdom is written by Sheena McFeely, the creator of ASL Nook. The book is based off McFeely's daughters Shaylee and Ivy. The story follows the characters Shay and Ivy as they dream about being princesses at an imaginary ball. But Shay starts to think about possibilities outside of their imaginary kingdom. Shay and Ivy begin imagining themselves as fearless pilots, scientists, and astronauts. The book includes illustrations of the characters signing to each other, and sends a lovely message about the importance of being yourself.

#### Dad and Me in the Morning

Dad and Me in the Morning is a story about a young boy and his father that wake early one morning to watch the sunrise on the beach. The young boy wakes up to his flashing visual alarm clock, puts on his hearing aids and goes to wake his father. The two communicate through signing, lipreading and squeezing each other's hands. The book has beautiful watercolour illustrations and a great little story about the relationship between a father and son.

#### Dina the Deaf Dinosaur

This book tells the story of a dinosaur named Dina, who is deaf. Dina decides to run away from home because her parents won't let her learn sign language. After running away Dina, befriends an Owl named Otto, a Mole named Moliere, and a Chipmunk named Camilla. Dina the Deaf Dinosaur draws on feelings that the author, Carole Addabbo, experienced as a child. Addabbo has been deaf since birth and is a sign language teacher.

#### Lucy Loud and Clear by Laila Lavan and Beatriz Iglesias

This is a lovely little bilingual book (English/Spanish) about a deaf girl named Lucy. Throughout the story, she tries to get the attention from her normal hearing teenage brother, and get her coloring pencils back. Harry finds this book really funny and he loves that the main character has the same name as his mummy!

#### I Can't Hear Like You by Althea

I can't Hear Like You is all about a boy named Tom who wears hearing aids. He introduces us to his life and school and how being deaf impacts his play. It also includes signed text in the British Sign Language alphabet.

#### A Button in her Ear by Ada Bassett Litchfield

Though this book was originally published more than four decades ago, it still makes our short list. Your child will enjoy reading how a young girl's hearing loss was detected and treated with the help of a hearing aid. Those with normal hearing will learn about hearing loss, those with hearing loss will identify with the primary character. Just keep in mind that today's hearing aids look quite different than the body style aid featured in this classic.

#### I Have a Sister, My Sister is Deaf by Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson

Read along as a sister affectionately describes her younger, deaf sister as someone who likes to run and jump and play, just like everyone else. Part of the Reading Rainbow Book series.

#### A Birthday for Ben by Kate Gaynor

Author Kate Gaynor uses Ben's birthday party to illustrate the challenges of hearing loss, but also the ways in which we are all the same. A good book to help teach concepts of understanding and inclusion.

Dad and Me in the Morning by Patricia Lakin

Parents and children will enjoy this sweet read, describing the very special relationship a dad has with his deaf son and how they find ways to communicate with each other. A great introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf culture, this book is a good read for children of all hearing abilities.

Cosmo Gets an Ear by Gary Clemente

This interactive book, written from a young child's perspective, describes the journey from hearing loss to hearing aid. Readers and/or listeners can interact by answering multiple-choice questions, as well as learning about benefits to wearing hearing aids and how to take care of them.

### Ages 9-12

El Deafo by Cece Bell

This loosely autobiographical book is about Cece who wore hearing aids at school and used lip-reading and speech to communicate. The book won the 2015 Eisner Award for Best Publication for Kids (ages 8–12) [46] and a Newbery Honor in 2015.

Buttons: The Dog Who Was More Than a Friend by Linda Yeatman

The story of a Buttons, a puppy that bonds with a deaf boy named Phillip and Phillip's family.

Can You Feel the Thunder by Lynn E. McElfresh

The story of 13 year old Mic Parsons and his struggle to accept his conflicting feelings towards his deaf and blind sister.

Hue and Cry by Elizabeth Yates

Set in an 1830s New Hampshire community. It's the story of a deaf girl named Melody and her budding friendship with a young Irish immigrant who has been labeled a thief.

Muddy Four Paws by Jean Ure

The story of how 11-year old Clara and her best friend rescue a dog that has something very special in common with her younger hearing-impaired brother, Benjy.

Nick's Mission is another book by Clair Blatchford.

This mystery revolves around sixth grader, Nick, and his dog as they discover dangerous smugglers in their area.

Cheshire Moon by Nancy Butts

Older readers will enjoy this book about a deaf girl named Miranda, who must learn to trust a new friend after her cousin, Timothy, is lost at sea. Author Nancy Butts weaves suspense and intrigue into the story when the two share a mysterious dream about Timothy.

Jessi's Secret Language by Ann Matthews Martin

When Jessi begins to learn sign language from Matt, a young boy for whom she babysits, she becomes determined to introduce sign language to other interested children in the community. The book is #16 of The Babysitter's Club series.

Rally Caps by Stephen J. and Jodi Michelle Cutler

After 10-year old Jordan is injured in an accident, he finds it difficult to return to his favorite sport of baseball. Fortunately, he meets Luca at summer camp, a deaf boy who wears a cochlear implant and inspires Jordan with a “nothing is impossible” attitude. Find out how they rally together in the biggest game of Jordan’s life.

Addy’s Race

Read how Addy, who has worn hearing aids for most of her life, discovers a hidden talent that teaches her she is not defined by her hearing loss.

### Teens

A Season of Change by Lois L. R. Hodge

Biney is 13 and has hearing loss, but that doesn’t stop her from helping a friend in crisis. The challenge helps her prove to everyone, including herself, just how grown up she really is. This story chronicles the life of 13-year old hearing-impaired Biney Richmond as she wades through the hazards of life as a young teen.

Hearing Our Way Magazine (for kids and teens with hearing loss)

Subscribe to this magazine for kids and teens with hearing loss, which gives them an opportunity to connect with others experiencing the same issues and challenges. Includes resources for parents and teachers, too. A 1-year subscription is only \$12.

Missing by Kate Chester

Part of a detective series and focuses on the main character, Sara Howell, who is a smart, beautiful, and deaf detective.

Is That You Miss Blue? by M. E. Kerr

Introduces Flanders Brown and her new friend Agnes Thatcher, a deaf girl, as they adjust to life at a girls' boarding school.