

Signing Time Outreach Activities

Signing Time's Story Hour

This informal, story hour event combines engaging stories that children of all abilities will enjoy. Stories shared with the children will be told using American Sign Language (ASL).

Participants

Preschoolers and elementary school-age children who are accompanied by a parent or caregiver. The program is for children of all abilities who enjoy storytelling, whether they are hearing, non-hearing, or have special needs.

Structure and Components

Select or create a theme from the Signing Time episode descriptions. Go to www.signingtimekids.org and click on 'adults'. You may also create a theme based around a favorite children's storybook.

Activities:

- Select a book
Go to www.signingtimekids.org and click on 'adults'.
- Select a theme

Materials:

- Signing Time standards-based lesson plans
- Signing Time activity pages
- Signing Time printables
- Crayons, markers, pencils
- Lists of children's books that complement ASL usage
- Signing Time DVD/videos
- Signing Time music CD

Theme related printables and songs can be downloaded from the Signing Time web site www.signingtimekids.org.

Staffing:

- Outreach manager/coordinator to welcome and make introductions
- Signing Time local fans/volunteers (any or all of the following):
 - Someone who knows American Sign Language
 - Someone who can sing ST songs
 - Child Development or Literacy expert

Time:

Weekday morning, afternoon or Saturday morning

Location:

PBS Station
Local Library
Library
School
Community center
Church function room
Day Care Centers
Pre School Facilities



Signing Time's Story Hour sample schedule (60 minutes)

1. Have an activity for children as they arrive i.e.: wooden puzzles, silent bingo, flannel board activity or finger plays.
2. Welcome by Outreach Manager/station representative (once all participants have arrived). Introduce the ST volunteers and explain what they will do.
3. Show a brief clip of a Signing Time video with Rachel Coleman demonstrating words related to the storybook theme.
4. ASL volunteer helps children & adults practice those signs; add one or two new signs. Have children & adults show each other the new signs they've learned.
5. Read, tell and sign a story, reinforcing the signs that were demonstrated.
6. Hand out copies of a printable for children to work on.
Informal Q&A for caregivers with ST fans/volunteers or child development expert.
7. Show components of ST website
Informal Q&A continues
8. Final demonstration
Practice of signs learned (optional, depending on group interest)
9. Give adults a "take-away", e.g., hand-out showing today's signs or ST Quick Reference Guide that they can use with the children, include ST web site and broadcast information.



Story Hour Example

Theme: Colors

View: Clip of episode 6 – “My Favorite Things” (includes my favorite colors)

Ask children to name their favorite color; demonstrate the sign for each color they name and let children and adults practice the sign with each other.

Read: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin, Jr.

Ask children to sign each color as it is read.

Printable: Colors of the Rainbow

Let children work on this while adults are reviewing the Signing Time web site; this can also be a time for informal Q & A.

Final demonstration: Make a Rainbow

1. Randomly hand out small pieces (dots or squares) of felt of various colors.
2. Sign each color and have the children with that color place their band of the rainbow on a felt board.
3. (This can also be done with pieces of colored paper that can be stuck to the wall with masking tape.)
4. Hand out take-aways for adults.

