

Auslan & English Storytime

Our journey

Annette Webb

City of Sydney

Kate Matairavula



Cultural and Library Auslan Programming



- Auslan interpreted adult events – author talks, Late Night Library, webinars
- Auslan focussed events – Auslan Poetry Slam
- Extending to children’s programming

Children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Literacy needs

Limited research, English literacy levels vary greatly in children who are deaf compared to hearing children.

- 1) Auslan is not a written language. Literacy develops when children see the language they speak in print.
- 2) To make connections between spoken language and text you need to know and use that language. If your first language is Auslan or you have difficulty hearing and acquiring English then that will affect your developing literacy.
- 3) 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents who will not know Auslan. Parents may be learning Auslan as they are teaching their deaf child to use it. Partial Auslan acquisition can make it hard to learn a new language such as English.



Literacy strategies for Auslan Storytime

- Use a native or proficient Auslan signer who loves books.
- Have the deaf person at the centre of the story telling
- Use the deaf person to make the connections between Auslan and English.
- Champion Auslan alongside English in 3 ways:
 - Stage 1: strong face to face language skills
 - Stage 2. linking face to face communication to text
 - Stage 3. written stories.

2017 International Day of People with a Disability



- Initial format – Kate signing while library staff member reads
- Divided audience
- Surry Hills, weekday slot
- Evolving format
- Saturday afternoon slot
- Attracting families with children who are deaf, children who are non verbal, children who are hearing

Literacy strategies for Auslan Storytime

Customised strategies:

- Print motivation: linking the words in the story to Auslan signs
- Vocabulary: linking featured English words with Auslan signs
- Print awareness: the story develops as the words move through the book
- Narrative skills: encouraging interactive discussion as story unfolds

Book selection

Moving online - June 2020



Ballet

Moving online - June 2020

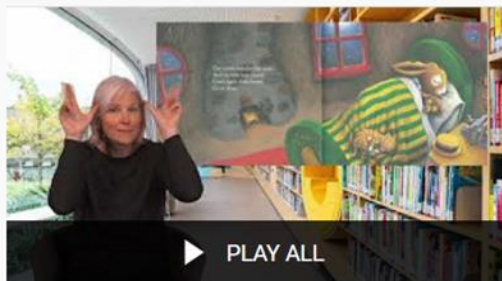


AUSLAN PRESENTER GARETH

Little Nic's Big Day

This episode features *Little Nic's Big Day* by Nic Naitanui, illustrated by Fatima Anaya and published by Albert Street Books.

Auslan and English Storytime online



City of Sydney Library: Auslan and English storytime online

Storytime is a fun session of storytelling for pre-schoolers. These videos presented by City of Sydney in partnership with the Deaf Society are suitable for deaf and hearing children. New videos are added regularly below.



City of Sydney

SUBSCRIBE

- Benefits of online “Auslan in the Home” regional
- 56 videos
- Over 20,000 views
- On our What’s On platform
- City of Sydney YouTube channel
- 1 x program coordinator manages production and publishing of videos
- Mirroring ftf frequency – 1 new video uploaded weekly during school term
- Keeping online element to run alongside ftf return in 2022

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