

Children's Deaf* Book Character List (2026 update)

Starter list compiled by audiologist/author Rie Neal. Updated every September. Download free at: www.rieneal.com.

KEY:

- ♥ Author or Illustrator is Deaf*
- 👂 Amplification used by character(s)—(HAs = hearing aids; CIs = cochlear implants; BAHA = bone anchored HA)
- 👋 Sign Language used by character(s)—(ASL, unless otherwise stated)
- (* = deaf, Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, etc.)

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Picture Books (alphabetized by author last name)



Cesaria Feels the Beat, by Denise Rosario Adusei (illus: Priscilla Soares ♥). Roaring Book Press (2024). A Deaf girl removes her shoes at a dance performance, despite objections, so she can feel the beat. 🙋



The Hungry Little Gopher, by Laura Carolfi (illus: D.E. West ♥). Laura Carolfi (2025). Four ASL-signing kids want to grow a garden, but an adult worries that animals will eat all the veggies. 🙋



The Gallaudet Eleven, by Kerry O'Malley Cerra ♥ (illus: Kristina Gehrman ♥). Little, Brown (2026). The true story of the eleven Deaf men recruited by NASA for spaceflight research during the Space Race. 🙋



Mara Hears in Style, by Terri Clemmons ♥ (illus: Lucy Rogers ♥). Beaming Books (2024). Mara navigates her first day at a new school with her flashy purple hearing aids. 🙋👂 —HAs



Love Sounds Like, by Hannah Jessen Conway (illus: Remesh Ram). HJC Publishing (2024). At bedtime, a mother attempts to explain how love is experienced through the five senses to her young, deaf son with CIs. 🙋👂 —CIs



The Chang Family (5 books), written & illustrated by Youmee Lee ♥. Gallaudet U Press (2025). Board book stories about a Deaf Korean-American family with two kids, Min and Hwa. 🙋



Monster Hands, by Karen Kane & Jonaz McMillan ♥ (illus: Dion MBD). Nancy Paulsen Books (2024). Two signing friends use their hands to make shadows to scare away a monster under the bed. 🙋



God's Rainbow of Promises, by Janet Moreno ♥ & Jennifer Fusco (illus: Ziyue Chen ♥). WaterBrook Children's (2025). Using ASL rhymes, each color of the rainbow is used to represent one of God's promises. 🙋



The Girl Who Loves Bugs, by Lily Murray (illus: Jenny Løvlie). Peachtree (2024). A bug-loving girl (with hearing aids) invites all her bug friends into her home—just in time for a big family dinner. 🙋👂 —HAs



Wash: Winnie's ASL Adventures (2-book series), by Deb Myers ♥ (illus: Julie Bourne ♥). Savory Words (2024-2025). A young fox and her Gramma explore all the different ways to sign "wash." 🙋



Butterfly on the Wind, by Adam Pottle ♥ (illus: Ziyue Chen ♥). Roaring Brook Press (2024). A Deaf girl with stage fright creates a butterfly using ASL, sending it on a journey around the world to reach others. 🙋



Signs of Friendship, by Annie Silvestro (illus: Ziyue Chen ♥). Simon & Schuster (2025). Signing best friends Sonia (Deaf) and Sally (hearing) learn to make room for a new friend with a mess-making puppy. 🙋



Can You Imagine: ASL Rhymes, by Alexandria Sims ♥ (illus: Kristin Barrett ♥). Alexandria Sims (2025). A book with comical ASL rhymes for each color of the rainbow (i.e., red popcorn). 🙋



Extraordinary Jordyn and her Bionic Ears (2 books), by Dr. Jasmine Simmons ♥ (illus: Caryn Marie). Dr. Jasmine Simmons (2024-6). A girl overcomes judgment for her hearing devices. 🙋👂 —HA & CI (bimodal)



I Deaf-initely Can: Rhett the Heeler (2-book series), by Karlie Waldrip ❤️ (illus: Lucy Rogers ❤️). Katie Waldrip (2024). A deaf dog is adopted by a Deaf girl who teaches him sign language. Based on a true story. 🙋



Alice's Colorful New World, by Kristy Whilden ❤️ (illus: Sophie Lane). BookBaby (2025). The true story of Alice Cogswell, the first deaf student to be taught sign language by Thomas Gallaudet in the 1800s. 🙋

Chapter Books (ages 6-8+)



Astrid the Astronaut (4-book series), by Rie Neal (illus: Talitha Shipman). Aladdin/S&S (2022-2023). A plucky 8yo is determined to be the first hard-of-hearing astronaut one day; and for now, to get to Space Camp. 💰 —HAs



Major and Mynah (4-book series), by Karen Owen ❤️ (illus: Louise Forshaw). Firefly Press (2025). A girl teams up with a mynah bird (who she can understand with her new magical hearing aids) to solve crimes. 💰 —HAs



Emma Every Day (22-book series), by C.L. Reid ❤️ (illus: Elena Aiello). Capstone (2020-2026). 8yo Emma, who is Deaf, uses ASL to communicate as she learns to skate, goes to a party, and other fun things. 🙋 💰 —CI



Lizzie and Lucky (4-book series), by Megan Rix ❤️ (illus: Tim Budgen). Puffin (2021). A Deaf list-making girl sets out to convince her parents to get her a dog, only to stumble onto a dognapping case. 🙋 —BSL 💰 —HAs



Dawn of the Light Dragon (Dragon Masters #24), by Tracey West (illus: Matt Loveridge). Branches/Scholastic (2023). Darma and Drake seek help from a Deaf Dragon Master (Rune) and his light dragon. 🙋

Middle Grade (ages 8-12+)



The Magic Library of Waterfall Way, by Julie Abe ❤️. Bloomsbury Children's (2026). An Unremarkable girl (who is deaf in one ear) must find a lost magic crystal to earn membership into the Scholar's Guild.



Wishbound, by Clemency Brown. Chicken House (2026). Leonie, a Wishmaker, must team up with new friend Cress to keep her gift from being sold off to the wealthy. Cress is Deaf. 🙋 —BSL 💰 —HAs



Camp Twisted Pine, by Ciera Burch. McElderry Books (2025). When campers go missing in the woods, 11yo scientist Naomi and her friends must face down a cryptid to find them. Her friend Jackie is Deaf. 🙋 💰 —HA



Make a Little Wave, by Kerry O'Malley Cerra ❤️. Carolrhoda Books (2024). A girl with new-ish CIs fights to stop the inhumane killings of sharks in her new beach town. 💰 —CIs



Deer Run Home, by Ann Clare LeZotte ❤️. Scholastic (2024). Effie, the only Deaf member of her family, is rescued from an abusive living situation by her ASL interpreter. Novel-in-verse. 🙋



The Silent Journey, by Havelah McLat ❤️. Havelah McLat (2026). In 1932, deaf 11yo Anika flees famine-stricken Ukraine for the U.S., desperate to reconnect with her father. Anika speaks and lip reads.



Space for Saffron, by Rie Neal (illus: Sara Gianassi). Aladdin/S&S (2026). An impulsive, science-loving 10yo helps her moms save Gran's rundown café in Silicon Valley by turning it into a space-themed play café. 💰 —BAHA



A Little Mic, A Big Change (2 books), by Katherine Rybak ❤️. Hearing Out Loud Books (2026). Kaylee must gather her courage to ask teachers to use her new wireless mic that works with her hearing aids. 💰 —HAs



Rune (3-book series), by Carlos Sánchez. Flying Eye Books (2024-2026). A Deaf orphan girl who loves to cook finds herself thrown into a world where sign language is associated with magic. Graphic novels. 🙋 —BSL 💰 —HAs