

Children's d/Deaf/HOH Book List (updated 2025)

This starter list is compiled by an audiologist/author, with the goal of helping d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing kids find strong characters like themselves in books. Not an exhaustive list. Updated annually. Free download at: www.rieneal.com

KEY:

- ♥ Author or Illustrator is d/Deaf or HoH
 - 💰 Amplification used by character(s)—(HAs = hearing aids; CIs = cochlear implants; BAHA = bone anchored HA)
 - 👉 Signed Language used by character(s)—(ASL, unless otherwise stated)
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Picture Books (each section 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. 👉



Dog Days: Rhymes When Signed in ASL (10+-bk series), by Laura Blum (illus: various ♥). Pint-Sized Productions (2020-2025). Simple-to-sign ASL books, with video examples via QR codes. www.aboutloveandlanguage.org 👉



The Gallaudet Eleven, by Kerry O'Malley Cerra ♥ (illus: Kristina Gehrmann ♥). Little, Brown (3/31/2026). The true story of the eleven deaf men recruited by NASA for spaceflight research during the Space Race. 👉



The William Hoy Story, by Nancy Churnin (illus: Jez Tuya). Albert Whitman (2016). True story of a Deaf baseball player in the Major Leagues in the late 1800s. 👉



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



Sound, Switch, Wonder, by Dr. Christine Ko & Owen Whang ♥ (illus: Katie Crumpton ♥). West Margin Press (2023). A boy with cochlear implants goes about his day, enjoying his ability to turn sound off and on. 💰 —CIs



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. 👉



The ABCs of Inclusion (2nd ed.), by Beth Leipholtz (illus: Vuồn Illustration). Little, Brown (2025). An ABC book featuring a child with a disability for each letter. Written by mom of Cooper, a Deaf boy with CIs. 👉 💰 —CIs



Swishing, by Victoria Monroe ♥ (illus: Shawn Richardson ♥). Savory Words (2022). True story of a young Black, DeafBlind, and Queer basketball player who went on to become a coach (and write this book). 👉



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." 👉



Mighty Mila (2-book series), by Katie Petruzzello (illus: Nadja Sarell). Mighty Books (2021, 2024). Young, spunky Mila is sure she can do everything by herself. Based on a real kid. 💰 —CIs



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. 👉



Dancing Hands, by Joanna Que ♥ & Charina Marquez ♥ (illus: Fran Alvarez; tr: Karen Llagas). Chronicle Books (2023). Sam's Deaf neighbor, Mai, teaches him Filipino Sign Language. 👉 —FSL



Extraordinary Jordyn and her Bionic Ears, by Dr. Jasmine Simmons ❤️ (illus: Caryn Marie). Dr. Jasmine Simmons (2024). A young girl overcomes judgment for her hearing aid and cochlear implant. 🗣️💰 —HA & CI (bimodal)



Baby Loves the Five Senses: Hearing, by Ruth Spiro (illus: Irene Chan). Charlesbridge (2019). A board book featuring a simple explanation of sound and hearing, including HAs CIs, and sign language. 🗣️💰 —HA & CI



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 (7/4/2025). 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



Emma Every Day (17-book series), by C.L. Reid ❤️ (illus: Elena Aiello). Capstone (2020-2024). 8yo Emma, who is Deaf, uses ASL to communicate as she learns to skate, goes to a party, and other fun things. 🗣️💰 —CI

Middle Grade (ages 8-12)



Hear Me, by Kerry O'Malley Cerra ❤️. Carolrhoda Books (2022). A 12yo girl with progressive hearing loss fights to convince her parents not to force her to get cochlear implants. 🗣️💰 —HAs (& CIs)



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



The Baby-Sitters Club (Graphic Novels) #12: Jessi's Secret Language, by Chan Chau & Ann M. Martin. Scholastic Graphix (2022). A hearing girl learns ASL to communicate with her new babysitting charge, who is Deaf. 🗣️



Secrets of Camp Whatever (3-book series), by Chris Grine. Oni Press (2021-2023). A biracial, Latinx, HOH girl is upset about being sent to her dad's old camp, only to find that it's filled with supernatural creatures. 💰 —HAs



Signs of Survival, by Renee Hartman & Joshua M. Greene. Scholastic NF (2022). Two Jewish sisters, one Deaf, one hearing, use sign language to help each other survive a Nazi concentration camp. 🗣️ —various



Song for a Whale, by Lynne Kelly. Yearling (2019). A Deaf STEM genius sets out on a journey to help a whale whose pod can't hear his song, spurred on by her own desire to attend a Deaf school with signing peers. 🗣️



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. 🗣️



Show Me a Sign (3 books), by Ann Clare LeZotte ❤️. Scholastic (2020-2023). When a Deaf girl is kidnapped from her Deaf island community, she has to figure out how to survive in a hearing world and get home. 🗣️ —MVSL



Space for Saffron, by Rie Neal (illus: Sara Gianassi). Aladdin/S&S (2/3/2026). An impulsive, science-loving 10yo helps her moms turn Gran's rundown café in Silicon Valley into a space-themed play café. 💰 —BAHA