

Story Times for People Who Are Blind or have Low Vision (Perkins School for the Blind)

- Describe the illustrations/pictures in the story.
- Use tactile manipulatives, sounds, or scents to engage the other senses.
- Try high-contrast picture books or use a light box for activities.
- When asking the group a question, have them clap instead of raising their hand.
- Use universal directional terms (raise your hands to the side, instead of the window). “Over there” has no meaning.

Tips for Reading to People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (Gallaudet University)

- Position yourself for visibility.
- Don't exaggerate speech, shout, etc.
- Read/Speak clearly (one person at a time and don't rush).
- Allow people time to look at illustrations (away from interpreter) and back again.
- Maintain eye contact and animation with the audience.
- Try to limit tactile elements during the story.
- Display rhymes in extra-large font so they can be read from afar.

