

*Welcome to the
**Southwark Hearing
Support Service
(SHSS) 2024
Autumn One
Newsletter.***



WELCOME

Welcome to the Southwark Hearing Support Service (SHSS) Autumn One Newsletter (2024).

We hope that you all had a great summer and managed to enjoy some of the fun activities we suggested for you all.

As the nights start to draw in and we start to stay in more, we thought we would suggest some ways that you can support your child/young person around reading. Reading is such a great way to learn, lose yourself and unwind. Whether you read to your little ones or chat to your older children/teens about books that they are reading. Maybe even sharing titles you have both enjoyed.

The key at any age is to find something they really enjoy. For younger ones you can encourage this by getting their attention with visual and auditory stimuli (e.g., music/puppets/gesture/voice). Creating a purposeful space that has minimal distractions (e.g., on your lap, on a chair, in their room, before bed) and part of the routine. For the older children/teens it could be about finding a genre that interests them (e.g., sci-fi, romance, graphic novels).

Reading skills start from birth as the stages develop progressively to achieve fluency in reading (reading then writing). Reading is fundamental to education. For children that read there can be real excitement in discovering the unexpected twist in a story.

Children with a hearing loss can find it hard to hear new words, hear the sounds of words, learn about sarcasm and figurative language and different points of views, so supporting reading is important from an early age to promote literacy developments.

How can we support deaf children to develop into expert readers:

- Have the child in a language rich environment with books being read to them and stories told with excited tones and sign/gesture to gain their attention
- Have the child appropriately aided and/or attending these reading moments with full access (close to the reader)
- Have the child experience making noises, identifying everyday sounds, paying attention to lip patterns, songs, rhymes, stories are all great ways of building early listening and attention skills. Use music to help tell stories and add auditory highlighting.
- Have books that you repeat and they start to learn the stories developing anticipation and memory
- Have children in social situations with peers and adults, giving opportunities to over-hear others and learn about the to-and-fro of conversation
- Phonics programme (usually through school) and developing the relationship with letters and sounds.
- Building vocabulary – Direct instruction, Learn the background of a subject (pre-teach), homophones, use jokes with vocabulary and create stories using vocabulary, allowing imagination to run wild with wordless books.
- Using pictures to develop inference and prediction skills.
- Creating your own experience books to write about an exciting adventure they went on or experience they have had.

- Guided reading (adult led) and shared reading (parts shared between more than 1 person) with questioning on what has happened – recalling facts, what will happen next, learning about characters and points of view, organising thoughts into graphic organisers.
- As fluency develops, increase the demands of the reading through more genres, advanced vocabulary and story complexities and move to independent reading.
- Once you have independent readers, talk to them about books they are reading. Why did they choose that title? Would they recommend it? Why/why not?
- Talk about certain authors. Do they have a favourite author?
- Share your own reading experiences. Books you have enjoyed and why. Model how to talk about books. You might even want to have your own little book club if you have a couple of fluent readers in your house.

There are lots of books out there with deaf characters. And these span all reading ages. The NDCS has some suggested books, for ages 0-25 years, that have been reviewed by children and parents. [Books with deaf characters | Reviews \(ndcs.org.uk\)](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/)

Ask your Teacher of the Deaf about books that we have. We have a mini library of books, many of which are mentioned on the NDCS list, that we are happy to share with you. We also have chapter books with deaf characters for the older children/teens.

There is a charity set up by Dolly Parton that offers free monthly books to families with children under 5. You just need to sign up and then they pop a book in the post to you. <https://imaginationlibrary.com/uk/>

And don't forget your local library. It is a great place to go and get books. If you go with your little ones they can sit in the children's area and share books, explore and see books as accessible. For the older children/teens they are good places to be able to get books to read for free, use the space to study away from busy home life.

Here is a link to find your local library and learn about events being run in your area. [Libraries - Southwark Council](#) You will find sessions where stories are shared and read by adults so you can sit back and enjoy the stories too.

If you would like to find out more about supporting reading in your home please do contact us.

'Run Rebel Run' was on at the Peckham Theatre with an inclusive performance for deaf audiences on Thursday 3rd October. One of our students went along and had this to say:

"Run Rebel Run is about a girl telling her story that she wants to get into the running competition but her Dad won't let her because he is in control of everything. My favourite part was when the girl learns about the French Revolution because that is when the story comes into play. It was interesting when they projected onto the backdrop to help tell the story. I had a fun time."
(Year 6 student, Southwark)

Look out for more opportunities in the future!

Best wishes

Southwark Hearing Support Service

A REMINDER OF HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A time to celebrate outstanding contributions made by Black people to Southwark and world history.

1st October - 31st October 2024

Southwark Council
Empowering people.

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