LANGUAGE USE

CLERC CENTER
AT GALLAUDET



Tips for Using WATCH, READ, and LEARN in the Bilingual Stories Bookshelf App

Each story on the Bilingual Bookshelf App can be explored in three ways: **WATCH, READ, and LEARN.** Together, these support language, literacy, and connection.

Download the Bilingual Stories Bookshelf App

clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/real/bookshelf-app

1 WATCH

Full story in ASL

- A fluent storyteller shares the full story in American Sign Language
- Includes expression, rhythm, pacing, and storytelling structure
- Animated backgrounds support understanding

Now, let's try this: Watch the full story first and copy facial expressions together to give children the "big picture" through rich ASL exposure.

2 READ

Text + ASL support

- The story appears like a book—children swipe pages
- Each page includes 1–3 sentences with ASL video support
- Highlighted words can be tapped to see signs and fingerspelling

Now, let's try this: Tap a highlighted word and say/sign it together. "DOG"—see the sign, fingerspell it, find it in the story, then sign the full sentence with "DOG."

3 LEARN

Vocabulary practice

- Key vocabulary words are listed alphabetically
- Each word includes a video showing the sign

Now, let's try this: Choose 2–3 new words and use them throughout your day. ("EAT," "PLAY," "GO")

4 HOW TO USE ALL THREE TOGETHER

- Start with **WATCH** → understand the story
- Move to **READ** → connect to text
- Use **LEARN** → practice vocabulary

Repeat as often as you like. Move between modes to support both ASL development and reading printed text.

Bilingual Tip

If your child uses spoken English, you can incorporate both languages:

- Use spoken language while your child also sees ASL
- Tell the story in spoken English, then again in ASL
- Have one family member use spoken English while another shares the story in ASL

This supports a bilingual, bimodal approach to language learning.