CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

CLERC CENTER AT GALLAUDET

# Classroom Library Reflection Checklist — (Pre-K & Kindergarten)

**Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DHH) Students**

**Purpose:** Reflect and prepare your classroom library to support early bilingual (ASL–English) language development, identity, and joyful book engagement.

## ASL & English Are Visible and Valued

- ◯ Books are used in signed read-alouds and interactive storytelling
- ◯ Picture books have strong, clear visuals that support meaning
- ◯ ASL story videos or signed versions are available when possible
- ◯ Adults model discussing books in ASL and English
- ◯ Children are encouraged to respond through signing, pointing, and drawing

## Reflects Children's Lived Experiences

- ◯ Books show Deaf/DHH children in everyday situations
- ◯ Stories include diverse families, cultures, and communities
- ◯ Characters use varied communication styles (ASL, spoken, multimodal)
- ◯ Books show positive, capable Deaf children — not deficit stories

## Deaf Authors & Deaf Community Representation

- ◯ Some books are created by Deaf authors or illustrators
- ◯ Deaf culture and community life appear in child-friendly ways
- ◯ Deaf adults and role models appear in stories and images
- ◯ Teachers highlight Deaf creators when sharing books

## Developmentally Appropriate & Language-Rich

- ◯ Books support early language and concept development
- ◯ Repetitive, predictable texts are included
- ◯ Concept books (colors, numbers, feelings, routines) are available
- ◯ Wordless or low-text books are included for ASL storytelling
- ◯ Books invite interaction, prediction, and retelling

## Used Intentionally in Daily Routines

- ◯ Books are used during daily story/signing time
- ◯ Books connect to classroom themes and play centers
- ◯ Sensory activities (objects, textures, movement, role-play) are paired with stories to deepen understanding
- ◯ Teachers plan hands-on follow-up experiences tied to book concepts and vocabulary
- ◯ Favorite books are revisited multiple times to build language and comprehension
- ◯ Children retell or act out stories through play, signing, and sensory exploration

# NOTES