

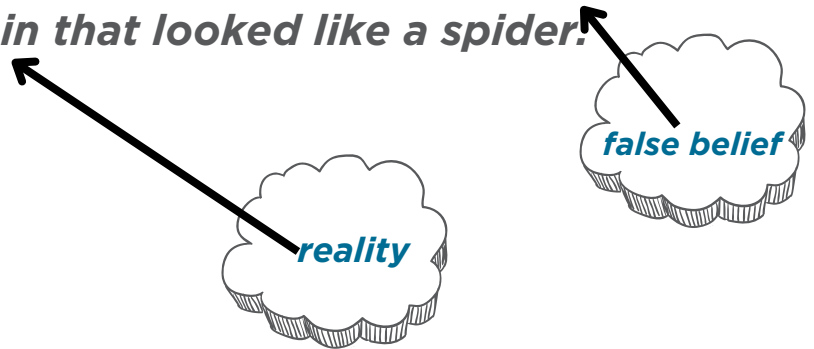


For Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children, Theory of Mind (ToM) skills can be delayed. Fortunately, intervention studies have helped to identify what families can do to improve their DHH children's ToM skills.

Help DHH students develop ToM

DHH children in kindergarten through third grade can practice a specific sentence structure for understanding false beliefs.

- Example: She yelled because she saw a spider in the bathtub,
but really it was a stain that looked like a spider.



Videos of storybooks in American Sign Language (ASL) are a great resource! Three websites for accessing these videos:

- tiny.utk.edu/TxASLStory
- tiny.utk.edu/ASLDirectory
- tiny.utk.edu/VideoRead
AloudsASL

While reading with your child:

- Look for instances when the character's thoughts or beliefs are reflected in their actions.
- Point out when the characters have a false belief.
- Pause when viewing the videos to predict what the character might do next based on their thoughts or beliefs.





Videos and topics in ASL to discuss with your child.

Title	Reference	Possible Ways to Focus on ToM
<i>Good Night, Gorilla</i>	Rathmann, P. (1996). <i>Good night, gorilla</i> (P. Rathmann, Illus.) G. P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers.	Point out what the zookeeper thinks and why he thinks that. Discuss if he has a false belief.
<i>There’s an Alligator Under My Bed</i>	Mayer, M. (1987). <i>There’s an alligator under my bed</i> (M. Mayer, Illus). Dial Books.	Discuss whether there is really an alligator under the child’s bed. Contrast what the child thinks with what is real. Wonder together about whether the alligator is real or pretend.
<i>Llama Llama Red Pajama</i>	Dewdney, A. (2015). <i>Llama llama red pajama</i> (A. Dewdney, Illus.). Viking Books for Young Readers.	Discuss how Llama Llama feels when Mama Llama is downstairs. Point out that Llama Llama thinks his mama has left him. Ask your child whether Mama Llama actually left him or if that is a false belief (a misunderstanding).
<i>Are You My Mother?</i>	Eastman, P. D. (1960). <i>Are you my mother?</i> (P.D. Eastman, Illus). Random House Books for Young Readers.	Ask your child what the baby bird thinks each time he encounters a new animal. Ask your child if that animal is really his mother or if he just thinks it is his mother.
<i>Stone Soup</i>	Muth, J. J. (2004). <i>Stone soup</i> (J.J. Muth, Illus). Scholastic Press.	Discuss with your child whether the villagers think the stones make the soup or the vegetables. Contrast their beliefs with what the monks know.

Access the [white paper](#) by TRRC Faculty Affiliate, Dr. Kristen Secora, to read more about the research support for ToM and how it can be taught.

