



September 2024 - Newsletter

Kia ora #FirstName#

President's Update

This Sunday we have our **free webinar** on **Parent Advocacy**, hosted by Clare Best. If you've not yet secured your spot, [click here to register](#). You can also get in early and **register** for our fourth and **final webinar** entitled **Reading Hacks & Strategies**. Scroll down to find out how.

Monday 23rd September is **International Day of Sign Languages** and, it marks the start of **International Week of Deaf People**. The theme this year is **Sign up for Sign Language Rights**. Visit the [World Federation of the Deaf](#) Website to find out more.

I want to share a recent **success** with you all. We at APODC are always looking for ways to **make the world more accessible** for our children. Something we have been doing behind the scenes recently has been researching books by **Deaf authors** and **illustrators**, or books with Deaf or Hard of Hearing **characters** and **storylines**, **NZSL** or other sign languages to share with you in our newsletters. However, not all these books were available in Aotearoa and so, we have been suggesting books to **Auckland Library** and they recently purchased 3 books with **Deaf representation**. These books are now **available** to you, **free of charge** through Auckland Libraries. Scroll down to our **Resources and Representation** section to check out the books they now stock. If you know a great book that should be available for free via the library, email alison@apodc.org.nz.

Hand waves 🙌

Willa Hand on behalf of your APODC Committee ~ Anna Park, Duncan Henderson, Jo Weaver, Lydia Cook, Rhian Thompson

APODC EVENTS



Register now to attend the fourth and final webinar in our online series hosted by Clare Best of Raising Bilinguals - **Reading Hacks and Strategies**

Date: Sunday 13th October

Duration: 45 minutes (plus 15 mins for Q&A)

Start Time: 7pm

This webinar is a **must-attend event** for parents eager to **enrich their child's language and literacy** development through simple, yet **effective reading strategies**. From enhancing signed and spoken language skills to fostering decoding abilities, phonological awareness, **vocabulary expansion**, and comprehension, Clare will unpack a series of **powerful techniques** that can transform your reading

time with your child into a rich and rewarding learning experience for both you and them.

[Click here to register](#)

SAVE THE DATE APODC CAMP 2025

Planning for the APODC Camp 2025 is underway! Save the date and join us for a weekend to remember:

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd February 2025

To keep things fresh, and to cater for the growing number of families excited to attend, APODC Camp 2025 will be at a new location - The Y Camp Adair - We'll see you there!

National Week of Deaf People

Sign up for Sign Language Rights!



**INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF SIGN LANGUAGES**

Monday 23rd September 2024



**INTERNATIONAL WEEK
OF DEAF PEOPLE**

23rd - 29th September 2024



This year International Week of Deaf People is celebrated 23 – 29 September 2024.

The International Week of Deaf People is a week-long international celebration of Deaf individuals and the Deaf community across the world. This includes celebrating the International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL).

These two events are traditionally held during September and are based on the founding date of the WFD (23 September 1951). International Week of Deaf People is an opportunity for Deaf people to celebrate their communities, language, culture and history; make the public aware of their local, state and national Deaf communities; and to recognise their achievements.

The theme this year is Sign up for Sign Language Rights - This is your sign to learn and practice New Zealand Sign Language! We're want to create a world where Deaf people can sign anywhere. The best way to achieve this is to increase access to NZSL in all aspects of life! Read on to find out some ways you and your whanau can learn and practice NZSL.

NZSL

NZSL Teacher - Rachel Walker

Rachel Walker is a professional Deaf teacher and has been teaching New Zealand Sign Language to adults and children for over 20 years.



Private Lessons

If you want to learn or develop your NZSL Rachel offers private lessons to families across Auckland. In these lessons you will benefit from 1-on-1 time with a dedicated and experienced teacher in a location of your choice. Prices range between \$40 and \$60 depending on group size.

Group classes

These 16-week courses are only \$280 and provide an immersive experience that uses great materials and homework designed to build your confidence and capability in NZSL. Current course locations are, Ellerslie and Browns Bay - [click here to find out more](#)

Email Rachel directly on rachel.walker@signora.co.nz to take your next steps on your NZSL journey.

Learn NZSL Online

[Learn NZSL](#) is a free learning portal on New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL). Whether you're studying NZSL, trying to connect with a Deaf friend, or just having fun with a new language, Learn NZSL has a lot to offer!

Watch, learn and practise how to use NZSL in common situations, shown as nine topics below. Within each topic, you'll find plenty of videos, resources and exercises to keep you busy. Go through the topics in sequence to get the full story of Learn NZSL.

Visit www.learn.nzsl.nz today

NZSL Coffee Club

NZSL Coffee Club

Join us for our monthly coffee group meetups on the first Sunday of every month. Calling all NZSL students, regardless of your level - you are more than welcome to join us! Our fantastic NZSL tutor will support you and engage in conversations over a cup of coffee. It's an opportunity to practice your NZSL skills in a friendly environment while meeting new people and catching up with old friends. Take advantage of this fantastic chance to immerse yourself in the beauty of NZSL and connect with a vibrant community.

Auckland **Christchurch**

Crave Cafe
6 Morningside Drive,
Morningside, Auckland

Black Betty
165 Madras Street,
Central City, Christchurch

Every first Sundays
(10:00am - 12:00pm)

3rd March	4th Aug
7th April	1st Sept
5th May	6th Oct
2nd June	3rd Nov
7th July	1st Dec

*A few more locations & Online to come in Term 2

If you have been learning NZSL and want a friendly and welcoming community to practice your newfound skills, this could be the place for you.

NZSL4U are running a coffee club in Auckland on the first Sunday of each month from 10am - 12pm

To learn more about what NZSL4U have to offer check out their website and Facebook page:

Website: NZSL4U.co.nz

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/nzsl4u

Sign Play Together - Playgroup

First Signs, in collaboration with The Hearing House, have expanded their playgroup offerings. Their Wednesday morning group is now fortnightly and they have set up an additional weekly Saturday morning group. Check out their flyers below for more details.

SIGN PLAY TOGETHER - Fortnightly Auckland 2024



Come and Join us at "SIGN PLAY TOGETHER" on **FORTNIGHTLY** Wednesday mornings at The Hearing House!

We will learn NZSL, play, read books and HAVE FUN together! Your First Signs Facilitators will organise a fun and educational programme for your preschoolers in NZSL.

Your children will have the opportunity to meet other Deaf or Hard of Hearing children like themselves, and use NZSL to communicate!

📅	FEB: 14, 28	JUN: 5, 19	OCT: 9, 23
	MAR: 13, 27	JUL: 3, 17, 31	NOV: 6, 20
	APR: 10, 24	AUG: 14, 28	DEC: 4
	MAY: 8, 22	SEPT: 11, 25	

🕒 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

📍 The Hearing House, 251 Campbell Road, Greenlane, Auckland



SIGN PLAY TOGETHER - Saturdays Auckland 2024



Come and Join us at "SIGN PLAY TOGETHER" at The Hearing House every first Saturday of the month!

We will learn NZSL, play, read books and HAVE FUN together! Your First Signs Facilitators will organise a fun and educational programme for your preschoolers in NZSL.

Your children will have the opportunity to meet other Deaf or Hard of Hearing children like themselves, and use NZSL to communicate!

📅	10th February	8th June	5th October
	2nd March	6th July	2nd November
	6th April	3rd August	7th December
	4th May	7th September	

🕒 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

📍 The Hearing House, 251 Campbell Road, Greenlane, Auckland



For more information, please contact
First Signs:
first.signs@deaf.org.nz



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WHAT'S ON?

Tim Bray Theatre Company



Mrs Wishy-Washy
NZ Sign Language Interpreted shows

Dates: Thursday 26th September and Saturday 12th October

Time: 10.30am

Venue: The Pump House Theatre, Takapuna

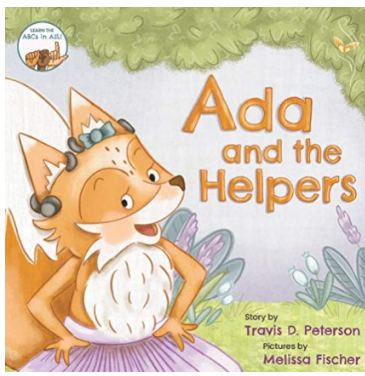
[Click here to book tickets!](#)

This tale teaches valuable lessons about determination, friendship and the consequences of one's actions, while offering plenty of opportunities to enjoy some good, clean, laugh-out loud fun

"Oh, lovely mud!" exclaim Mrs Wishy-Washy's farm animals Cow, Duck, and Pig. These beloved characters from Joy Cowley's series of picture books are about to come to life in a hilarious stage performance by Tim Bray Theatre Company. While the animals just love getting mucky, Mrs Wishy-Washy is determined to keep them spotless for the Big Farm Fair.

In this funny farmyard adventure, audiences will be treated to comical chaos as Mrs Wishy-Washy attempts to give her muddy animal buddies a good scrub.

Representation and Resource Recommendations



Ada and the Helpers

Written by Travis D. Peterson

Ada is a dancing, deaf fox with cochlear implants who loves to help others. On her way to dance in a talent show one day, she meets three other creatures who are each facing a physical challenge or disability of their own. She decides to help each of her new friends to see past their challenges and discover their natural strengths. But can they help her in return? Ada's a bit nervous about the talent show!

Reading age: 1 - 7 years old

Available at your local Auckland Library: [Click here to request](#)



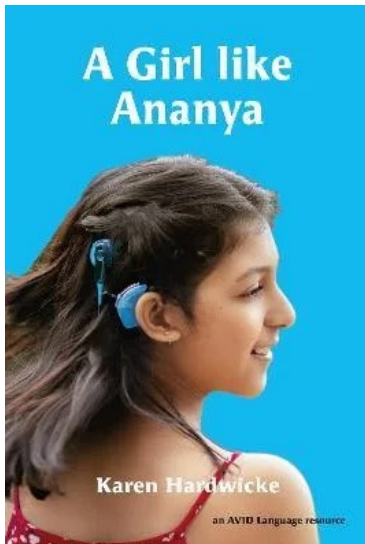
Super Kena: A Girl Made Fierce with Hearing Aids

Written by Becky Cymbaluk

Fierceness comes in many forms, but Super Kena's arrives in powerful determination. When kids at school make fun of her hearing aids, she gets a super idea. She will gather her differently-abled classmates to create a team of super heroes. Together, they will use their superpowers to make a difference in the world - by spreading understanding and acceptance . . . one classroom at a time.

Reading age: 1- 11 years

Available at your local Auckland Library: [Click here to request](#)



A Girl like Ananya

Written by Karen Hardwicke

This book is a resource for learning about the life experiences of a deaf person, a young girl in this instance - which any parent or teacher will find useful. At the start of the book the author asks the following question:

Do the two phrases below mean the same thing?

The deaf girl

The girl who is deaf

This question is revisited at the end of the book, where there is an activity for children to complete about their own multi-identities.

Available at your local Auckland Library: [Click here to request](#)

Nga mihi nui, APODC Committee



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