



Book Title: *Listening to the Quiet*

Author: Cassie Silva

Illustrator: Frances Ives

Ages: 2-6 years

Identities/Lived Experiences/Themes in This Book

- Feelings
- Kindness
- Relationships
- Identity affirmation
- Communication/Language barrier
- Disability
- Grief/Loss

Anti-Bias Education

Social-Emotional Learning

- **Empathy and Understanding**
- Healthy Complex Identities
- **Respect Across Differences**
- Notice, Name, and Reject Bias
- Responsiveness and Action
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- **Social Awareness**
- **Relationship Skills**
- Responsible Decision-Making

Persona Doll Guide Units

Persona Doll Connections

- Creating Safety and Belonging
- **Understanding You and Me**
- **Valuing Families**
- Building a Community
- **Multilingual – Speaks Hmong, English, and American Sign Language**
 - All About Choua – p. 22

Background Information for Educators

The book highlights the relationship of a mother and daughter who are navigating the new world of the mother's hearing loss. Together, they learn sign language so they can continue to communicate and share with each other. This story provides a heartwarming example of a close and loving relationship in an uncertain time. As they explore the world together, the daughter tries hard to understand what her mom is going through. She tries to "listen to the quiet" and relate to her mother, even when her world is still full of sound.

This book offers the opportunity to see how we can still learn and grow together, even in the face of adversity. Sometimes, what we know and are familiar with can change, which can be scary and difficult. When we love and care for people, we show up for them by adapting together and supporting one another.

Reflection Questions for Educators

1. Reflect on a time in your life when you experienced a significant change.
 - a. What was that experience like for you?
 - b. How were you able to navigate adjusting to change?
 - c. What kinds of support were helpful for you?
2. What are ways you've had to adapt for your family and friends in their times of need?
3. As educators, we may not always know what is happening in the homes of our students. How can you create "open doors" so that families feel connected and comfortable sharing with you, so you can better partner with them as a support system for their children?

**Book Summary: Read this to children before reading the book**

Today, we are going to read a book called *Listening to the Quiet*. This book is about a little girl named Jacki whose mom is experiencing hearing loss. That means that her ears are not hearing sounds anymore. Jacki loves her mom and wants to help her and understand what she's going through. Together, they discover new ways of doing things, including enjoying music.

Discussion Questions**For 2-4 year-olds:**

1. This story is called *Listening to the Quiet*,
 - a. Can you show me what quiet is like?
 - b. What do you notice when it's really, really quiet?
2. What were some of the things that Jacki and her mom do together?
 - a. What kinds of things do you like to do with your grown-ups?
3. Do you like music like Jacki and her mom?
 - a. What kind of music do you like?
4. In the story, Jacki learns sign language with her mom, so they can communicate. Have you ever learned something new to help a friend or family member?

For ages 5 and up:

1. What are some ways you can tell that Jacki really cares about her mom?
 - a. How do you show your grown-ups that you care for them?
2. Jacki and her mom learn sign language so they can communicate together.
 - a. What do you know about sign language?
 - b. Do you know any signs?
 - c. Have you seen others use sign language before?
 - d. What are you curious about?
3. Have you ever learned something new or made adjustments to help a friend or family member? Tell us about what you learned or changed to help your friend or family member.
4. How do Jacki's classmates support her when it's her turn to lead Music Appreciation Friday?

5. At the end of the book, it says, “I guess there are lots of ways to appreciate music, not just with your ears.” What other kinds of things can you appreciate without using your ears or sense of hearing?

Extension Activities

1. Learn Sign Language

In the story, there are many examples of sign language that Jacki and her mom use. As you read, highlight when one of the characters uses a sign. Teach these signs to the class so that they can sign along as you read.

- Thank you
- Help
- Brave
- You
- Quiet applause
- I love you

Are there other signs you can learn as a class? *Tip: YouTube offers video tutorials on sign language. You can use these tutorials to help the class correctly sign new words and phrases.

2. Hearing the Sounds in Our Body

This activity requires you to have access to a few instruments like a drum, rain sticks, tambourine, and/or maracas. Have students sit in a circle with their bodies calm and quiet. Remind children that most people hear sounds with their ears, but we can also feel them in our bodies. Play each instrument while children close their eyes, and have them try to think of where else in their bodies they can “hear” the music. Ask them, “What does it feel like?”

3. Body Percussion

Anyone can create music, and music is for everyone! In this engaging activity, students learn simple body percussion moves (clap, pat, stomp) to create rhythmic sounds and music. It may be a good idea to practice the moves first, and then introduce the video as students follow along. What happens when we turn the video sound off? We may not hear the music, but we can still use our bodies as an instrument and tool to make music.

[Body Percussion Video](https://youtu.be/R3yCBMX_wlw?si=c6GvDYhPLnsnTKlr): “Spring by Vivaldi: Easy Body Percussion for Kids”, *YouTube*. Uploaded by Sunrise Kids Music Lessons, 27 March 2025, https://youtu.be/R3yCBMX_wlw?si=c6GvDYhPLnsnTKlr

