HOW CAN I LEARN TO BE DEXTEROUS AND DEFT,

IF I ALWAYS MIX
UP MY RIGHT
FROM MY LEFT?





Lauren Fountain & Skye Jones
South Australian School for Vision Impaired

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Practical activities to help students develop left/right body-awareness in order to remediate reading and writing reversals.



### Who are we?

### Lauren Fountain

Primary Teacher at SA School for Vision Impaired

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, University of South Australia

Graduate Certificate of Education/Vision Impairment

### Skye Jones

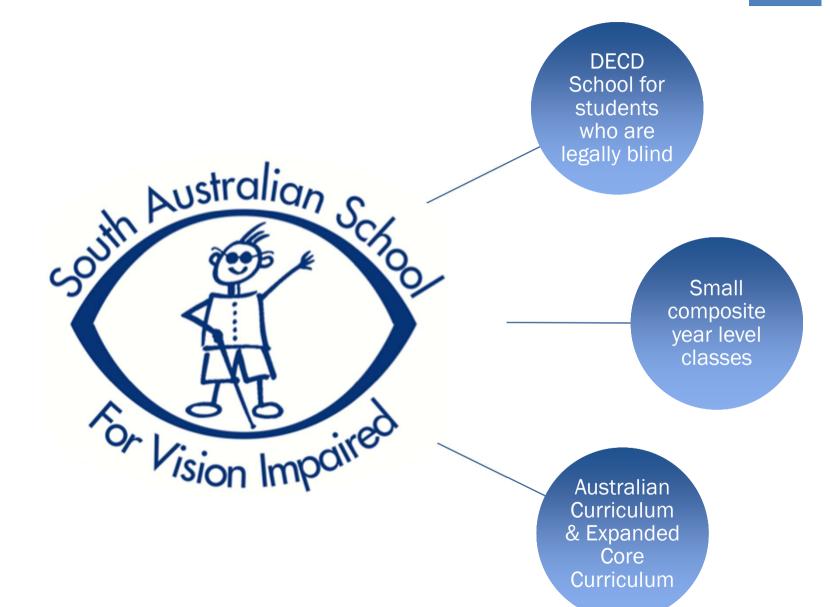


Junior Primary Teacher at SA School for Vision Impaired

Bachelor of Arts/Education Junior Primary/Primary, Flinders University

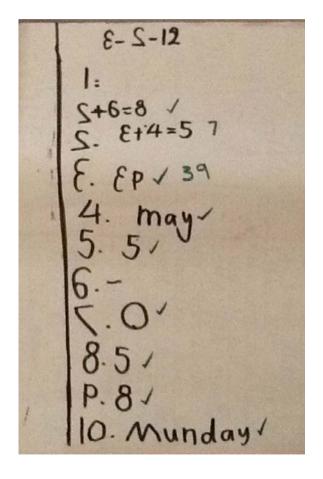
**School Services Officer** 

**Braille Transcriber** 



## This is why we wanted to share this workshop with you.





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		22 (eversals

+ "A Practical Guide for Remedial Approaches to LEFT/RIGHT Confusion and Reversals"

Charles W. McMonnies

Published by the Australasian College of Behavioural Optometrists, 1991.

ISBN 0 646 06132 1

"For most people, identifying left and right sides of the body is a reflex or automatic process that does not require any reasoning. These people are simply confidently aware of their right and left hand sides because they have a reflex (internal) sense of left/right body awareness."

Charles W McMonnies, 1991

"In contrast, those people who are confused about left and right find it is necessary to either guess or to use one or more of a great variety of reasoning processes to achieve some confidence."

Charles W McMonnies, 1990

Some daily tasks can be onerous if you do not have an intrinsic understanding of left and right.





Putting shoes on the correct foot



Knowing where to start reading from in a book

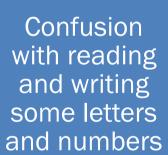
Eating with a knife and fork



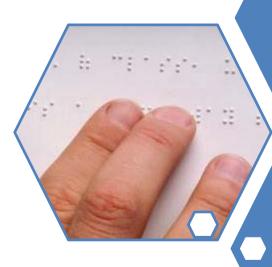




Reading and writing in Braille without reversals











### **Student Profiles**

#### Student C

- 11 year old boy
- Bilateral Congenital Retinal Folds
- Nystagmus
- Myopic Astigmatism
- Poor central vision
- Glaucoma
- No useful vision out of right eye
- Left eye less than 3/60
- Dual media learner

#### Student M

- 9 year old girl
- Optic Atrophy
- Photophobic
- Poor peripheral vision
- Distance vision 6/48
- Prefers N32 Bold Print



### Letters and number students had difficulty with a the beginning of 2012

#### Student C

Print

- Letters b d p q
- Capital N
- Numbers 2 3 7 9

Braille

- I/e
- ar/gh/s/wh
- d/f/h/j and punctuation marks

#### Student M

Print

- Letters b d p q s
- **?**
- Numbers 2 3 5 7 9

+

### At the end of 2013, after participating in remedial activities

1. Jumping Jack Jumped 39 times. 2. Jack had afriend called ZOC, he was 9 years old. Jelly beans ove my favourite I ear them 7 days a week. Zigzong Jump 793 Zig Zag Jump 397 Jenny in a jour went to the zoo ned nearly went nutry. Now Stob I nearly nipped velson.

### Some simple but important tools and rules you will need to implement this program

### Tools

Squeaky ball or toy
Clothes peg
Left / Right Body Awareness Card
Pack of playing cards

### Rules

The colour red always represents the right side.

The left and right sides of your body remain the same, regardless of your orientation.

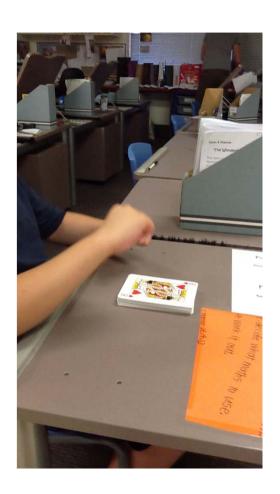




### + Body Awareness Activity



### + Card Sorting



### Trampoline exercises to help establish left / right body awareness



### Aim:

Whilst singing/saying the song, students make head and body rotations which give them a greater sense of 'leftness' and 'rightness'. When using the Left/Right Body Awareness Card (LRBAC) in conjunction with the song they integrate visuals with vocals and body rotations.

### **Equipment:**

Copy of the song lyrics Left/Right Body Awareness card

# Activity 1 Left and Right Song

### Aim:

The aim is to kick the balloon using a sequence of 10 kicks with the left foot and 10 kicks with the right.

The student must say 'left foot' and 'right foot' on the appropriate kick. This activity will aid in the brain and body learning the automatic use of right/left when needed/asked.

### **Equipment:**

A bright coloured balloon OR A ball with a bell inside

## Activity 3 Balloon Tap & Kick

Some students do not have a complete awareness of the left and right sides of their bodies. The purpose of this exercise is to provide very specific body awareness experiences and emphasise differentiation between the left and right sides of the body.

Equipment:

Squeeze toy

CD player/music player

Peg

Blindfold

+

# Activity 2 Body Part Identification

#### Aim:

To develop the idea of 'Red Right'.

To encourage students to cross their midline. Students must verbalise and identify left and right sides of the body as they place cards on the table. The object of the game is to separate a single pile of cards into 2 separate piles of cards (one black and one red).

### **Equipment:**

A deck of playing cards (large print if necessary, however only the colour needs to be seen)

# Activity 4 Card Sorting



### Thank you

Mr. Charles W. McMonnies for writing "A Practical Guide to Remedial Approaches to Left/Right Confusion & Reversals", 1991.

Mrs. Janine Land, Mrs. Michelle Glazbrook & Mrs. Antonia Blakeborough – SASVI School Services Officers who helped implement this program with our students.

Mrs. Carolyn Bawden and Mr. Mark Battista – SASVI Specialist Teachers who supported our students with this program.







If you have any questions or want to know more, please contact us.

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