

## SA School for Vision Impaired Braille Butterflies Program



The aim of the Braille Butterflies program is to develop tactile sensitivity in the hands and fingers, through a variety of structured activities, leading to successful braille reading. This also strengthens wrists and fingers in preparation for using the Perkins Brailler, SmartBrailler and eventually a BrailleNote. Each day a specific theme is followed in order to give students a wide range of experiences in both pre-braille and tactile concepts. Tracking activities are integrated into every session.

### **Monday:** Tactile exploration

Scanning an object, learning to use hands and finger tips enables the child to gain a complete picture of the item – its shape, size, texture, temperature, features, functions, comparison between objects. Students have enjoyed using Moon-sand, sorting trays, feely bags, play dough and plasticine. Students are encouraged to use light touch with their fingertips. e.g. moon-sand, tinkering box, sorting trays, feely bags

### **Tuesday:** Fine motor

Students develop wrist strength and finger dexterity through a range of activities including, pegging wet clothes onto a line, threading beads, opening jars and containers, copying patterns using magnetic and felt boards. e.g. finger strength and dexterity, pegs, hole punch, threading, removing jar lids, finger puppets. Perkins Brailler play.

### **Wednesday:** Tactile Maths Concepts

The program incorporates a variety of mathematical concepts such as matching 2D and 3D and tactile shapes, sorting, counting and grouping like objects, puzzles, water temperature, time and clocks, measurement using tactile rulers and making comparisons of different size shapes. e.g. shapes, counting, puzzles, Squid tactile graphics activities

### **Thursday:** Spatial Concepts

The development of sound spatial knowledge and concepts are essential to students with vision impairment. Students play games such as Simon Says to develop body awareness, directionality - understanding of left and right and crossing of the mid line. While looking at tactile maps of the World, Australia and South Australia, students used their knowledge of the points of the compass (N, S, E, and W) to navigate around countries and states in order to find capital cities. 'Moving on to pages' by Lois Harrell is a program that emphasises the building of a solid foundation for learning by touch. This is through different activities to develop and refine scanning skills to quickly trace, locate, identify, match, count, and compare simple patterns and characters in a logical format. All these concepts form the foundations for successful navigation around a braille page and book. e.g. it also links to O&M, looking at braille around the school.

### **Friday:** Literacy Activities

Sense Sacks are used to reinforce the skills covered during the week. For example, Possum Magic gives students the opportunity to use their four senses, touching puppets and toys, exploring tactile maps, hearing the CD of original author reading the story, smelling and tasting Anzac biscuits. Students are actively involved in conversations about the story and encouraged to ask meaningful questions to reinforce their conceptual knowledge. Tactile picture books, reading songs, poems and Perkins Brailler play.

Created own tracking stories using known fairy tales based on ideas in 'Fingerprints' by Gayle Lamb e.g. 3 Little pigs and 3 Billy goats gruff. These tracking activities are meaningful as the students begin to recognise characters as they become familiar with the story- children begin to predict and 'read'. These stories were complimented with the respective Sense Sacks.

### Other ideas: Independent Living skills

- Sewing project: Students are required to sew buttons on to a piece of fabric which was made into a little bag.
- Using clothes from the dress up box- students dress and undress under blind fold with a focus on skills such as buttons, zips, belts and shoelaces.
- Tactile attribute games e.g. Scattered crowns – available from American Printing House (APH); Maths Builders Geometry Manipulatives- used it to make patterns, pictures and geometric shapes-available from American Printing House (APH)
- Spatial concepts: Creating a face using play dough/ then drawing using a mesh board/ raised line drawing kit

<b>Monday</b> <b>Tactile</b> <b>Exploration</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Fine Motor Skills</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Mathematical</b> <b>Concepts</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>Spatial Concepts</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>Small group work</b>
Sorting Tray Knives forks and spoons	Threading beads  Paper in and out of braille	Puzzles  Tinkering box	Listening games – sound identification	In the kitchen – set the table – make toast / spread toast
Moon sand – trace outline of a shape/object Makes impressions	Pegs – peg wet bathers onto the line – pincer grip	Shapes – matching flat shape to tactile representation	Left and right	Story time – Sense Sack exploration – Possum Magic
Sorting and threading threading beads to create patterns	Hole punch & threading	Counting/ sorting and grouping like objects	Top to bottom - tracking	Swish game Sound/object location Bell balls
Feely bags – use adjectives to describe texture, shape, size	Lids on jars and other containers  Paper in and out of braille	Temperature – hot and cold  Hot tap/cold tap – mix water safely	Long and short  Comparing manipulatives and tactile lines/shapes	Clothes game – button, zippers, socks, shoe fastenings
Explore objects from the kitchen – beaters, can openers etc	Copies patterns made on peg board/Velcro board etc	Measuring water into a cup – recognize full and empty	More than / Less than (water, sand, play dough) use talking scales	In the playground – explore the sensory garden – create a picture with your objects
Explore objects found at camp	Copies patterns made on peg board/Velcro board etc	Measuring water into a cup – recognize full and empty	More than Less than (water, sand, play dough)	In the playground – explore the sensory garden – create a sculpture with your objects – use blu tack
Texture discrimination – less distinctive changes	Tactile dominoes	RLDK – Create different textures/effects using variety of line styles	Systematic search for a lost item	Spatial awareness using balls in egg tray – letters of students name
Play dough – rolling pin, cutting with a knife, stretching	Hand games/songs – open shut them, Incy wincey spider	Lego – copy a pre-made Lego shape.	Move to learn / yoga	Treasure Hunt – for sound item hidden in the room  Following explicit instructions