# Activities for younger students who have visual impairments

DAILY Letter Fun!

Choose a letter

1. Start with the sound(s) the letter makes – b,b,b
2. Add on words that begin with b – beautiful, bunny, banana. Billy builds boats. Big, bouncy buffalo build bridges…etc
3. Put the daily “magnetic” letter on a special spot on the frig.
4. Find 4 things in the house that begin with the daily letter.
5. Go to the braille book and track the page with the letter… talk about dots 1, 2 making letter b
6. Braille your daily letter 4 times in a row every time you eat… so if you have 5 snacks then you braille 5 times. The paper can be in the braille, ready to go and the stop to braille can become part of the daily habit and routine.
7. The fingers used to braille are the same as the dots numbers.
8. Letter buckets – if you are looking to save your daily letters, start a bucket for storing the letter fun. 26 buckets later you can start making words.

Daily practice with braille reading and writing builds strong reading skills.

DO IT BOX!

5 things to do inside a shoe box

1. Ticket Taker. Using child sized scissors encourage cutting practice. Start with an easy task of single cuts. Use strips of card stock or recipe cards and make tickets, work up to continuous cutting. Put a broad tip felt line on a recipe card, go over that line with a tracing wheel, to give a raised surface. Make your lines straight or curvy, and build up to learning to cut lines that have corners or complex turns
2. PPP: Perfect Pattern Practice building patterns with foam stickers. Put enough stickers in the box to give the opportunity to repeat the pattern 4 – 5 times.

HINT: start the pattern on a card or page, leave room for adding on to it. Dollar stores have a wide selection of inexpensive stickers.

OPTION; use wooden beads on tri-twist pipe cleaners, with a cardboard base.

1. Loopy Lacing! Practice the in and out of lacing using commercially produced or homemade lacing cards (make out of stiff cardboard, that have holes punched around the perimeter) Hockey skate laces or boot laces work well. Stiffen the end of the lace with a single wrap around of duct tape or masking tape.
2. Glue and go: place in an envelop 4 pairs of like letter or words. Sort your pairs and glue on to a page. Use a ‘purple’ glue stick to give visual contrast.

HINT: remember to clip the angle on the top right corner of each of the cards, before giving them to the child to sort, help them to arrange the cards in the correct reading position. This can be done with braille or braille / print cards

1. Shape It. Play dough fun. Choose a theme and create. Letters, shapes. Gives younger child the opportunity to practice cutting skills, using a plastic knife.

Recipe for homemade play dough follows

GO FISH with a friend

Materials: bucket or garbage can, metal paper clips, ‘fishing rod’ (a 40cm garden stake), fishing line (long shoe lace) with a magnet tied on the end.

1. Make your fishing rod.
2. Create your fish! Be creative, they could be cut out in the shape of fish or simply use different coloured recipe cards
3. Braille or print your spelling words on the cards (make 2 for each word)
4. Mix up the cards and throw them into the bucket.
5. Go fish! And take turns; try to make the most pairs.

Alternate activity

1. Make up a card for each word in a simple sentence. Such as “I can hop and skip.”
2. Fish out the cards and ‘arrange’ them to make a sentence. Rearrange them to make a different sentence, such as “Can I skip and hop?”

BRAILLE DETECTIVE

1. Three dot 5 words that give a location: here, there, under
2. Talk about time in a day: today, tomorrow, tonight, afternoon,
3. Three members of the ould family: should, would and could
4. Eight members of the lower be family: sing it to a tune of before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, because….
5. Write 3-4 words that use the ought contraction; brought, fought, bought, thought,
6. Make a sentence using the 3 letter q contractions.
7. Make a sentence using the 3 letter u contractions.
8. What 2 whole word contractions begin with n and have just 3 letters.

Try brailling these sentences… how many contractions do you use for each one?

1. Just have more knowledge and know where a good friend can be found.
2. Every one must do as much as they can.
3. Name a father and a mother that have us reading braille.
4. Enough he said as she asked a quick question about people in the city.
5. Would the world work where words were forgotten?
6. This is such a necessary part of our knowledge of day to day braille writing.

HOMEMADE PLAY DOUGH

In a pot mix the following dry ingredients

2 cups of flour

2 cups of water

1 cup of table salt

4 teaspoons of cream of tartar

Add in

2 tablespoons of cooking oil and a few drops of food colouring.

Mix everything together, while cooking over a low heat. Stir continuously until thick, about 5 minutes, until the dough pulls away from the side of the pot. Ignore the lumps.

Turn out onto a counter and knead until smooth. Store in an air tight container in the refrigerator.

HOMEMADE PUFFY PAINT

Add food colouring to mixture

¾ cup shaving cream

¼ cup white glue

¼ cup white flour, add slowly while mixing, you may not need the full amount

Mix well

Put into squeeze bottles or ziplock bags and nip off a small corner to squeeze out.

STRESS RELEASE

Make your own stress release squeeze-it toy.

1 - 1½ cup of cornstarch

1 7-9 inch round balloon

Funnel

Blow a bit of air into the balloon to stretch it out

Put a funnel into the top of the balloon

Pour cornstarch into balloon through the funnel

To unclog the funnel, use a straw to slide up and down

Remove funnel when balloon is full and tie the balloon off with a knot

There are lots of videos and step by step guides on the internet on how to make these.

HOMEMADE SLIME

This is the best slime recipe because it comes together so quickly and only takes 3 main ingredients (plus food coloring if desired). Have fun with it! (source: <https://www.iheartnaptime.net/homemade-slime/>)

Ingredients for slime:

* 8-ounce bottle Elmer’s white school glue
* 1 1/2 – 2 Tablespoons contact saline solution, more as needed
* 1 Tablespoon baking soda
* Food coloring, optional

There are lots of other recipes available for slime, just check online.