

Washington State School for the Blind



Tactile Literacy for Functional Academics

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Teachers of Blind and Low Vision Learners from WSSB Outreach Access Services

- 1. Comprehensive Literacy for All
- 2. Turning on Touch Thinking
 - a. Created by Donna McNear (presented at GITWL 2019)
 - b. The student works on learning tactile discrimination skills of objects to braille symbols.
 - c. The approach is a sorting strategy that is repetitive.
 - d. Limited language should be used so the student is learning with their hands and fingers.
- 3. I-AM-ABLE
- 4. PenFriend
 - a. The PenFriend 3 is an audio labeling tool.
 - b. <u>Paths to Literacy- Using the Pen Friend to Motivate Beginning Braille</u> <u>Readers Who Have Multiple Disabilities</u>
 - c. <u>APH All Aboard! The Sight Word Activity Express</u> was a great set of sight word magnets to use with the PenFriend.
- 5. Califone Card Master
 - a. The Califone Card Master is an older tool you can find on eBay or possibly in a closet of a school.
 - b.
- 6. Edmark Reading Program
 - a. All print materials can be adapted into braille and/or tactile symbols.
 - b. Adapted tactile materials allow a student to participate with their peers using the same reading program.
- 7. Echo Dot
 - a. Allows a student to ask Alexa what a word is if they can identify the letters but don't recognize the word.
 - b. It could also be used to find out more information about reading words.
- 8. Braille Legos
- 9. Tactile Systems

- a. At several Getting in Touch with Literacy (GITWL) conferences there have been presenters that talked about setting up tactile systems for literacy.
- b. Brandi Trom-Anderson from Bismark Public Schools gave great examples of a system for her student Copper at GITWL 2023.
- c. There is another example on Paths to Literacy: <u>"Adian's Story: An Alternative Path to Braille and Literacy"</u>