

RESOURCES FROM Tools to Support You in Having a Student with a Visual Impairment in Your K-6 General Education Classroom

The Instructor's Top Picks

1. Paths to Literacy

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/>

If you are looking for information or resources about braille, print, or literacy development for children who are visually impaired, this is a wonderful web site. You'll find lots of useful information and ideas for activities that will benefit not just your student with a visual impairment. We highly recommend signing up for the weekly e-newsletter.

2. Paths to Technology

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/technology>

This is a comprehensive web site with a wealth of information about technology tools for people with visual impairments of all ages. There are how to videos, blog posts, and resources for students. This web site has an e-newsletter worth signing up for.

3. American Printing House for the Blind

<https://www.aph.org/>

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) provides a wide range of materials for students with visual impairments including braille, manipulatives, accessible apps, and large print materials.

The product section of their web site is not very user friendly. We suggest you ask a vision professional for a catalog or download the catalog as a PDF. Your student's teacher of students with visual impairments will be able to get many of the materials APH produces for your student to use in the classroom.

4. Teaching Students with Visual Impairments

<https://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/>

According to this website, one of its goals is to assist general education teachers in "preparing and creating a learning environment that is adapted to meet the unique needs of the students and to help you confidently teach

them.” If you are looking for information about accommodations and modifications for students who are visually impaired, visit

[Overview of Visual Impairment](#)

1. Project IDEAL: Visual Impairments

<http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/visual-impairments/>

This web page offers an overview of visual impairments and its impact on learning.

2. Eye Terms and Conditions

<https://aapos.org/patients/eye-terms>

If you are interested in learning more about your student’s eye condition, visit this web page sponsored by the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.

[Articles and Videos from Family Connect, Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, and Perkins e-Learning](#)

1. Expanded Core Curriculum Subjects and Skills

<http://www.familyconnect.org/info/education/expanded-core-curriculum/expanded-core-curriculum-subjects-and-skills/134>

FamilyConnect (www.familyconnect.org), originally developed for families of students with visual impairments, has some brief articles that are relevant for teachers. This article offers an overview of the expanded core curriculum.

2. Strategies for General Education Teachers

<https://www.tsbvi.edu/instructional-resources/1911-classroom-strategies-for-regular-education-teachers-who-have-students-with-visual-impairments>

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (www.tsbvi.edu) has an extensive website, including several articles such as this one specifically for general education teachers.

3. Role of a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/videos/webcast/role-and-value-teacher-visually-impaired>

Perkins e-Learning (<http://www.perkinselearning.org/>) offers several free videos that may be of interest. This video features Marla Runyan who describes her role as a teacher of students with visual impairments and how she makes curriculum accessible and meaningful for her students.

4. Adaptations for Students with Visual Impairments

<https://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/adaptations.html>

This article on the Teaching Students with Visual Impairments website offers strategies for adapting the environment, materials, and instruction so that students with visual impairments can access the general education curriculum.

Adapting Materials

1. Integration of a 3rd Grade Student with a Visual Impairment (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-p20OMmRFN0&feature=youtu.be>

A teacher of students with visual impairments describes her role and the role of other team members and how they work together to ensure the success of a 3rd grade student integrated into a general education classroom.

2. Best Practices: Successful Inclusion — Dea's Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OABC8ciCNfk>

Fairfax County Public Schools describes this video: "Seventh grade student Dea discusses her life as a vision-impaired student in a general education classroom. The video demonstrates how special education students can thrive in general education settings."

3. You Describe Presentation by Dr. Yue Ting Sui

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCuwclkbZRc>

This presentation (15 minutes) provides detailed information on using You Describe.

4. Audio Description: How to Know What to Say by Rick Boggs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZINVajYx9s>

In this 19 minute video Rick Boggs goes over what to say when providing audio description.

5. Bookshare

<https://www.bookshare.org/cms/>

Through Bookshare, K12 students can download digital books for free. Students have flexibility in how they read the books. For example, they can import the file to their braille notetaker or they can use an app to read the book on a device where they have options to listen to the book or adjust the font and background combination.

Braille

1. Braille Bug

<http://braillebug.org/>

Braille Bug is a web site designed for elementary age students to learn about braille. There are fun activities students can do to learn the basics of the braille code. There is information on Louis Braille and Helen Keller on this web site too.

2. Seedlings Braille Books for Children

<http://www.seedlings.org/>

Seedlings is a company that sells braille books at a reasonable price. Many of the books include both print and braille so all classmates can share them.

3. National Braille Press

<http://www.nbp.org/>

National Braille Press is another resource for reasonably priced braille books, calendars, and other braille related materials. For children in preschool-grade 3, a child can be signed up for the Braille Book Club for \$100 a year. The child will receive a braille book each month. National Braille Press also has a new device for measurement called the tactile caliper that students can use in math class.

Technology

1. APH Guidelines for Print Document Design

<https://www.aph.org/research/design-guidelines/>

Learn more about creating accessible documents in this document created by the American Printing House for the Blind.

2. Low Vision Accessibility Settings for MacBooks

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/low-vision-accessibility-settings-macbooks>

Learn how to configure low vision accessibility settings for MacBooks in this Paths to Technology article.

3. Computer Lab Accommodations for Low Vision Students

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/computer-lab-accommodations-low-vision-students>

Learn more about accessibility settings on Windows computers for students with visual impairments in this Paths to Technology article.

Orientation & Mobility

1. What is Orientation and Mobility?

<https://www.familyconnect.org/info/education/expanded-core-curriculum/orientation-and-mobility/orientation-and-mobility-ecc-6104/1235>

This Family Connect article, although written for parents, is applicable to teachers. It includes information about what is orientation and mobility and its importance for students with visual impairments.

2. Sighted Guide Techniques

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoRQiG_hlHk

This video from the Washington School for the Blind provides a more detailed description of sighted guide and your role serving as a guide for a student with a visual impairment.