**Babysitting Blues-“Playing at the Park”**

Goals: Days 1-6

\*See Tactual Town Diagram

The student will:

1. Demonstrate reading skills and read out loud the appropriate reading-level story card.
2. Understand comprehension of the story as he/she tells or summarizes the story out loud with the use of the lite box and associated story demonstration materials.
3. Show wayfinding skills by plotting his/her route from the neighborhood to the park and pond and back to the neighborhood using **Tactile Town**.
4. Fill up **measuring bottles** and add ice for a cool day at the park and practice playing a game of tennis after the characters in the story play using **The Tennis and Running Kit**.
5. Make a picnic lunch filled with fresh finger foods.
6. Identify different types of fish (salt and fresh water) by researching the internet. Using the **lite box** and **Science Kit**, the student will read and feel of animals and plants from APH’s Kit.
7. Use the **Invisiboard**, play **Tic-Tac**-**Toe** and vocalize what part of the story when the children played indoor games.
8. Make lemonade and finger foods using using the **Recipe Cards** from APH.

Activities: Days 1-6

1. Read aloud with the student the story, “Babysitting Blues”. Have the student echo read each line after listening to the teacher read.
2. Children will summarize the story using **lite box** story characters (black outlined) and discuss “Babysitting Blues”.
3. The student will check the temperature using the internet
4. Assist the student to set up a small community using **Tactile Town** while identifying three houses, grassy areas, the pond, four people, and one car.
5. The student will practice filling measuring bottles with water and ice cubes after reading the story.
6. Ask the child to listen to the differences between fresh and salt water fish. Google and keyboard the two categories and email the information to the instructor.
7. Discuss plants and animals using the **APH Science Kit** with the lite box.
8. Have the student play tennis using the **Tennis and Running Kit** after summarizing the part of the story when the play tennis.
9. Play **Tic-Tac-Toe** using the **Invisiboard** with the student. Discuss the importance of learning to play games and social with others.
10. The student will research simple lemonade recipe using the computer. The child will make a quart of lemonade using the **Recipe Cards** and surprise someone with a delicious cool drink.
11. Have the teen to go on a walk with peers. Students will discuss the environment, feel of the grass, tree bark, dirt, small rocks and other natural objects. Teens will read poetry to each other under a shady tree.

Babysitting Blues

Joel and Brie had been dating since school began in the fall. Brie was in all honors classes while Joel just loved to hang out with the guys and play football. Brie loved to go to Joel’s games and would always go with a friend who would verbalize the game to her.

One afternoon, Brie called Joel, “Joel, if you are not too busy, would you come over and help me keep my kid brother, Matt?”

“Sure, I believe you said once Matt had vision but also knows how to play games with Braille and large print- thanks to your cool mom and you teaching him,” Joel said.

“Joel, be sure you do not mind keeping Matt because he can be a stinker,” laughed Brie. “I know he’s nine-years-old, but there are times when he acts like he is five-years-old,” Brie stated.

Joel grabbed his **large print cards**, **tennis kit**, and **basketball** to help entertain Matt.

When Joel arrived at Brie’s house, he sent him mother a quick text letting her know he would be with Brie and Matt for most of the afternoon. She was working and did not know he would be babysitting.

Brie answered the door and let Joel in while Matt was hiding behind the door. Brie was giggling when Matt jumped out and yelled, “Boo!” Although Joel secretly knew Matt was behind the door because of his bright red shirt, he pretended to be afraid.

“Matt, would you want to play a **game of tennis with my adaptive kit**?” Joel asked.

“Not at all,” Matt beamed. “Let’s go now!”

Brie filled up three water bottles and packed a few power bars before they left the house. Last, she grabbed her cane and reminded Joel to get his as well.

Although Joel was athletic, Matt was a little surprised how hard he could hit the tennis ball and how great he was playing tennis. After an hour, Matt was getting tired and wanted to hang around the pond, so Joel, Brie and Matt sat by the water and tossed rocks into the water listening to the sound of the splashes from pebbles to larger rocks.

After tossing rocks, Joel, Brie and Matt sat under a tree while Joel recited poetry from his favorite poets called, but after ten minutes Matt was getting restless.

“I am ready to do something else now,” Matt whined.

Brie rolled her eyes knowing Matt always had to have several activities to keep him busy. However, Joel was patient and asked Matt to go back home and play a game of Tic-Tac-Toe. However, before they reached home, Joel took Matt and Brie on an adventurous nature walk pointing out so many plants, flowers, sounds and smells that many people miss.

Right before the kids walked onto Brie’s porch Matt had a question.

“Can someone with a visual impairment play **Tic-Tac-Toe**?”

“Matt, you play my game of **Tic-Tac-Toe** with me, so duh!” Brie laughed.

While the guys played the game, Brie made fresh lemonade and chicken salad sandwiches. She added chips and a chocolate chip cookie for each of them.

Before Brie and Matt’s mother came home, Matt had played four games of **Tennis**, a thirty minute nature walk, ten games of **Tic-Tac-Toe** and two movies.

Before Brie’s mom arrived back home, Joel teased Matt.

“I have babysitting blues,” he said as he slightly patted Matt’s arm.

“Was I that bad?” Matt asked.

“Not at all, I am blue or sad because our day is over, however, we will have more fun days to hang out together.” Joel smiled.

“I cannot wait and next time, Joel, let’s go running with the running kit. I think I need it after eating the cookies, sandwich and chips,” Matt laughed hard at himself- he knew he was one funny kid.