

Getting In Touch With Literacy 2011
December 7 – 10, 2011
Seelbach Hilton
Louisville, KY

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, December 6

8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Green Room

NCLB Test Administration
Preregistration required

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Medallion Ballroom Foyer

GITWL Registration Open

Wednesday, December 7

7:30 am – 6:00 pm
Medallion Ballroom Foyer

Registration Open

8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

Pre-Conference Workshop : "Using the Braille + 18 to Enhance Literacy Instruction and the Expanded Core Curriculum"

*Larry Skutchan, Technology Project Leader,
American Printing House for the Blind
Jeanette Wicker, Core Curriculum Project
Consultant, American Printing House for the
Blind*

9:00 am – 11:30 am

Tour of the American Printing House for the Blind

Transportation to APH will depart from the Seelbach at 9:00 am and will depart APH to return to the hotel at 11:00 am.

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Tour of Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS)

Transportation to VIPS will depart from the Seelbach at 9:30 am and will depart VIPS to return to the hotel at 11:00 am.

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Tour of the Kentucky School for the Blind

Transportation to KSB will depart from the Seelbach at 12:30 pm and will depart KSB to return to the hotel at 2:00 pm.

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Tour of the Charles McDowell Rehabilitation Center

Transportation to the McDowell Center will depart from the Seelbach at 1:00 pm and will depart the McDowell Center to return to the hotel at 2:30 pm.

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

Pre-Conference Workshop: Using the Braille + 18 to Enhance Literacy Instruction and the Expanded Core Curriculum

*Larry Skutchan, Technology Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind
Jeanette Wicker, Core Curriculum Project Consultant, American Printing House for the Blind*

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon B

Pre-Conference Workshop: "Building Literacy Through Building on Patterns"

*Cay Holbrook, University of British Columbia
Eleanor Pester, American Printing House for the Blind*

LeAnn Nannen Alexander, North Little Rock School District

Luanne Blaylock, Pulaski County Special School District

Kristen Buhler, Northwest Regional ESD

Jo Ellen Croft, Pulaski County Special School District

Kate Dilworth, Columbia Regional Program

Izetta Read, Santa Barbara County Education Office

Deanna Scoggins, Kentucky School for the Blind, Retired
Mila Truan, Tennessee School for the Blind, Retired
Robin Wingell, Santa Barbara County Education Office
Cathy Senft-Graves, American Printing House for the Blind

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon C

Pre-Conference Workshop: An Intervention Continuum for Students with Multiple Disabilities: SLK, SAM, and Tactile Connections

Millie Smith, Consultant, American Printing House for the Blind
Tristan Pierce, Multiple Disabilities Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Tour of the American Printing House for the Blind

Transportation to APH will depart from the Seelbach at 1:30 pm and will depart APH to return to the hotel at 3:30 pm.

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Medallion Ballroom
Salons ABC

Opening Session and Keynote Address

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Janie Blome, Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference Co-Chair
Jane Thompson, Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference Co-chair

Greetings from the Honorable Greg Fisher, Mayor of Louisville

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Cay Holbrook, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia

Keynote Address

“Reading and Writing Power”

Adrienne Gear, Reading Specialist, Vancouver, British Columbia

Award Presentation

BANA Braille Excellence Award

Presented to **Joe Sullivan** by Judy Dixon,
Chair, Braille Authority of North American

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Rathskellar

Welcome Reception

Please join us to meet and greet friends old and new, our presenters, and guests during a reception featuring hot and cold hors d'oeuvre and a cash bar.

Thursday, December 8

7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Medallion Ballroom Foyer

Registration Open

8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Medallion Ballroom
Salons DEF

Exhibits Open

9:00 am - 10:30 am
Medallion Ballroom
Salons ABC

Academic Literacy Showcase Session

Panel: “Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired”

Frances Mary D’Andrea, Chair, Education and Outreach Committee, Braille Authority of North America, Moderator

Judy Dixon, Chair, Braille Authority of North America

Ike Presley, National Project Manager, American Foundation for the Blind

Susan Ribyat, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Fairfax County Public Schools

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am – 11:45 am

Concurrent Sessions

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

"Tactile Illustrated Books for Children with Visual Impairments: Conception, Productions, International Synergy, Research"

Philippe Claudet, Director, Les Doigts Revent; Founder, Typhlo & Tactus

- Covers the "why" and "how" of designing and producing quality tactile books, and the progression of difficulty in tactile pictures, and the skills required to interpret them.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon B

"The Dots Talk: What We've Learned From 10 Years of the Braille Challenge"

*Nancy Niebrugge, Assistant Vice President of Programs and Services and Director of The Braille Challenge, Braille Institute of America
Cay Holbrook, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia*

Anna Swenson, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Fairfax County Public Schools

Sheila Amato, Adjunct Professor and Retired Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments

- Results of teacher and parent surveys related to student motivation, instructional immersion, and parental influence for students competing in the Braille Challenge, along with new strategies for contest development to include reading level calculations and the introduction of higher level critical thinking skills.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon C

"The Evolution of Braille"

Frances Mary D'Andrea, Chair, Education and Outreach Committee, Braille Authority of North America

Judy Dixon, Chair, Braille Authority of North America

- Issues related to the changing nature of print and braille, and the consequent need to make changes to braille codes; for all who are interested in braille literacy at any level, including adults.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon D

"The Buck Stops Here: Promoting Independence Through Financial Literacy and Money Management"

Holly Lawson, Assistant Professor, George Mason University

- An overview of national standards related to financial literacy for students without disabilities and creative ideas for promoting financial literacy for students who are blind and visually impaired.

Green Room

"Teaching Functional Literacy Skills to Students with Significant Disabilities and Visual Impairment"

Christine Moe, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, University of Northern Colorado

- Learn how creating innovative, personal literacy routines can encourage functional literacy learning for students K-12; samples of functional literacy objectives, activities, and materials will provide classroom strategies.

Walnut Room

"Implementing the English Language Learner Framework at the California School for the Blind (Part 1)"

*Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, Assistant Professor, California State University, Los Angeles
Sharon Sacks, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Staff Development, California School for the Blind*

Lizbeth Barclay, Coordinator of the Diagnostic Assessment Center, California School for the Blind

Marcia Silver, Speech and Language Assessment Specialist, California School for the Blind

- The California School for the Blind's interdisciplinary process of assessment and instructional planning for students who are second language learners, with emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Grand Ballroom East

"iLiteracy: Making Literacy Fun by Using the iPad, iPod Touch, and iPhone with Students Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired"

*Donna Brostek Lee, Assistant Professor,
Western Michigan University*

- An overview of current iOS devices and how they can be used to aid in enhancing literacy for students preschool through high school; includes selection of appropriate devices, understanding accessibility features, availability of apps and using external hardware.

Grand Ballroom West

"Circle Time Braille: Free Emergent Literacy Kits"

Diane Brauner, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Diane Brauner COMS, Inc

- Circle Time braille literacy kits, carefully created to be used during morning circle time for emerging braille readers, include brailled books with appealing tactile illustrations and hands-on motivating materials that expand regular classroom instruction to include skills unique to students with severe visual impairment; the three levels of kits will be demonstrated along with common goals for each level, use of the website to access each Teacher's Guide, songs, auditory stories and computer games, and participants will learn how to borrow the kits FREE for two weeks!

11:45 am – 1:00 pm

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

"Tactile Emergent Literacy"

Louise Comtois, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Retired

*Joanne Thibodeau, Occupational Therapist,
Institut Nazareth et Louis-Braille Institut
Raymond-Dewar*

- Information about research done by the presenters during a three part study, resulting in the publication of a guide for parents, the creation of three survival kits, and the conception and production of 32 books.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon B

"UGH, MATH – Even TVIs Need the Right Tools: How Personnel Preparation Programs Can Change the Math Dilemma"

Patricia Myers, Director, Teacher Certification Programs: Visual Impairments and Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Marshall University Graduate College

- Sharing the results of a national descriptive study which examined TVI's perceived levels of the use and effectiveness of strategies/aids for student achievement in advanced mathematics; focus will be on ancillary data which revealed a lack of knowledge/use of strategies and aids by TVIs and comments concerning the lack of teacher preparation in mathematics.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon C

"Assessment as the Foundation for Literacy Instruction"

Deborah Hatton, Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University

- Resources and procedures for assessing potential learning/literacy media in students with visual impairments across ages and ability levels; priorities for literacy instruction across ages and ability levels will be shared.

Mezzanine Ballroom

Salon D

"Assistive Technology: Enhancement or Impediment to Literacy?"

Ike Presley, National Project Manager, American Foundation for the Blind

-A framework that can be used to help determine which tools offer the best options for supporting literacy tasks, including reading (both print and electronic information), and writing, with a step by step process that places emphasis on visual, tactile, and auditory technologies to develop, support, enhance, and maintain literacy skills.

Walnut Room

"Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners using the ELLF for Children Who Are Visually Impaired (Part 2)"

*Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, Assistant Professor, California State University, Los Angeles
Sharon Sacks, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Staff Development, California School for the Blind*

Lizbeth Barclay, Coordinator of the Diagnostic Assessment Center, California School for the Blind

*Marcia Silver, Speech and Language
Assessment Specialist*

- Specific case studies highlighting strategies used to improve language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing for students who are visually impaired and English language learners; particular emphasis will be placed on embedding specific language objectives into content areas and expanded core curriculum lessons.

Green Room

**“A Model of Effective Instruction:
Implementing Instructional Strategies
Emphasizing Frequency and Variety in
Literacy Tasks for A Young Braille Reader”**

*Tracy Shimer, Teacher of Students With Visual
Impairments, Emotional and Behavioral
Disabilities, Isle School District*

-A practice oriented approach using "quick tasks" integrated at a high frequency throughout the school day to increase exposure to a variety of literacy skills while providing the repetition needed to acquire, maintain and increase braille literacy skills.

Grand Ballroom East

**“A New Approach To Learning Braille
Contractions”**

*Stephanie Herlich, Low Vision Coordinator,
California School for the Blind*

*Helene Holman, Educational Products Director,
Exceptional Teaching, Inc.*

- A new braille curriculum for elementary students incorporates the Speech Assisted Learning (SAL) technology to enhance beginning independent reading and enjoyment while learning to read and write; discussion will include the importance of reading fluency, sight word knowledge, writing exercises, immediate feedback and assessment when teaching braille.

Grand Ballroom West

“Reading for Meaning – Fluently”

*Carol Ann Kane, Reading Specialist, Read
Naturally*

- Interactive presentation describing how to combine the research-based strategies of teacher modeling, repeated reading and progress monitoring into a single strategy to accelerate reading achievement for Title I, special education,

ELL, blind, visually impaired, and mainstream students and also support vocabulary development and comprehension.

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Break

2:15 pm - 3:45 pm
Medallion Ballroom
Salons ABC

Functional Literacy Showcase Session

“Literacy Instruction for Non-Readers”

Millie Smith, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Texas School for the Blind, Retired

Diane Wormsley, Brenda Brodie Endowed Professor, North Carolina Central University

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm
Medallion Ballroom
Salons DEF

Exhibit Hall Break

Visit the Exhibit Hall for great vendors, great snacks and the chance to win a great cash prize!

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

“Literacy and Numeracy Instruction: Strategies and Supports Leading to Improved Student Results”

Callie Brusegaard, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Brimhall Elementary School

-A case study approach will be used to describe the implementation model, essential supports and effective instructional strategies used to increase the quality of services provided in general education classrooms for overall literacy and numeracy skills; specific strategies about measurable goals, specialized specific instruction, data collection, indirect services and collaboration will be shared.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon B

“Flying Fingers, Continued.....”

Lizbeth Barclay, Coordinator, Assessment Program, California School for the Blind

Stephanie Leigh Herlich, Low Vision Coordinator, California School for the Blind
- In 2009, Flying Fingers explored issues in braille reading fluency through a case study; this workshop will focus on interpreting assessment results to determine the specific causes of inadequate reading fluency, and on specific teaching strategies to improve braille reading fluency.

Mezzanine Ballroom

“Writing For the Ear: Student Radio Production

Salon C

Using Studio Recorder Software”

Diane Raab, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Arizona State School for the Blind

- The use of the APH software program Studio Recorder for producing school news – good for all ages, pre-school to adult vocational!

Mezzanine Ballroom

“Special Considerations for Using the Basic Reading Inventory for Students with Visual Impairments”

Salon D

Loana Mason, Braille Literacy Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind

Irene Topor, Associate Professor of Practice Programs in Visual Impairment, University of Arizona

- Special considerations, beyond availability in accessible format, need to be taken into account when administering the Basic Reading Inventory to students with visual disabilities and interpreting their results; guidelines for TSVIs on proper use of the instrument to make data-based decisions will be discussed.

Walnut Room

“From Their View: Student and Family Perceptions of Learning Braille”

Sharon Sacks, Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Staff Development, California School for the Blind

Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, Assistant Professor, California State University, Los Angeles

- Presents the findings of research studies examining the perceptions of students and families who participated in the ABC Braille Study, with a

focus on how the findings relate directly to practice; participants will be encouraged to discuss effective strategies that may impact instruction.

Green Room

"How To Use Specific Colors and Lighting As Part of an Ergonomically Correct Reading Environment"

*Elaine Kitchel, Low Vision Project Leader,
American Printing House for the Blind*

*Kerry Isham, Field Services Representative,
American Printing House for the Blind*

- Learn to identify colors and lighting conditions needed by most people, including those with visual impairments, brain diseases, autism and learning disabilities, for optimal performance during reading or practice of visual and perceptual skills; discussion will cover the effects of colors and lighting conditions upon the abilities of students to attend, focus, visually trace, and process and perceive information.

Grand Ballroom East

"Using the I-M-ABLE (Individualized Meaning Centered Approach to Braille Literacy Education) Practice Guide"

*Diane Wormsley, Brenda Brodie Endowed
Professor, North Carolina Central University*

-Demonstration of the key components of the I-M-ABLE Practice Guide and how teachers are using it to develop individualized reading and writing programs for students who are blind and have mild to moderate cognitive impairments; examples of student progress will be presented. This workshop is designed for TVIs but is also appropriate for VRTs and parents.

Grand Ballroom West

"Early Literacy for Young Children With Visual Impairments (ELVI): Year One"

*Cay Holbrook, Associate Professor, University
of British Columbia*

*Adam Wilton, Doctoral Student, University of
British Columbia*

- Describes the growth of an early literacy program for families of young children with visual impairment piloted in Canada, bringing together families, teachers, and community-based service organizations; the key messages of the program

will be discussed, as well as the development of a literacy "toolkit" for families, the program website, resources for parents and teachers, and the need for community support, especially in rural settings.

Friday, December 9

7:30 am – 5:00 pm
Medallion Ballroom Foyer

Registration Open

8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Medallion Ballroom
Salons DEF

Exhibits Open

8:00 am - 9:30 am
Medallion Ballroom
Salons ABC

Emergent Literacy Showcase Session

“Literacy Everywhere, All the Time!”

*Bonnie Lash Freeman, Director,
Training/Special Projects, National Family
Literacy Center
Sandra Lewis, Professor and Coordinator,
Program in Visual Disabilities, Florida State
University*

9:30 am - 9:45 am

Break

9:45 am - 10:45 am

Concurrent Sessions

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

“ITS for Literacy! – Important Tactile Skills”

*Karen J. Poppe, Tactile Graphics Project
Leader, American Printing House for the Blind*
-Fun activities and materials to inspire early, positive experiences with tactile graphics will be shared through hands-on strategies and tools to cultivate a young child’s tactile literacy skills from exploratory skills to independent creation of tactile graphics.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon B

“A Video Clip Library for Personnel Preparation Programs: Focus on Literacy”

Ellen Trief, Professor, Hunter College, City University of New York

- Creation of an online video clip library for university personnel preparation programs that would contain exemplary video clips of evidence-based practice will be discussed; primary focus will be to discuss and establish criteria for the video clips, particularly in areas of literacy, such as braille reading and writing, access to appropriate materials for low vision readers, and the use and demonstration of current technologies.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon C

“On-Line Hub for Information About Literacy”

Charlotte Cushman, Consultant, Perkins School for the Blind

- Introduces a new on-line hub for information, developed as a joint project between Perkins School for the Blind and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, about literacy for students who are blind and visually impaired; the range of literacy aspects covered by the articles, webcasts, research and links to additional information will be covered.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon D

“She Reads Funny: Psychosocial Aspects of Reading With Low Vision”

Cynthia Bachofer, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

- Psychosocial aspects of reading with low vision are discussed using data from a dissertation study and a literature review, including use of optical devices, preferred reading format, reading speed and stamina.

Walnut Room

“Smell, Eat, Touch, See and Hear Your Way Through Literacy”

Lisa Fulmer, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments

- A wonderful journey through literacy using the senses, with new ways of storytelling to bring purpose and meaning to students through assistive technology, props, and a multi-sensory approach for those in early childhood and elementary grades

and with varying degrees of disabilities; hands-on activities, handouts and even some surprises!

Green Room

“A Toolbox for Braille Literacy: Combining Technology, Hardcopy Braille, Slate and Stylus and Auditory Tools to Enhance Achievement K-12”

*Deborah Hartz, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Arizona School for the Blind
Samuel Ace, Principal, Arizona School for the Blind*

Shawn Bourgeois, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Arizona School for the Blind

- A multi-faceted approach using a variety of tools and technologies combined with braille and print to increase academic achievement; different formats and online tools included in the presentation are Newline (online and by phone), Bookshare, online dictionaries, library catalogs, wikispaces and poetry!

Grand Ballroom East

“Braille Reading Instruction: It’s More Than Braille Contractions”

LeAnn Nannen Alexander, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, North Little Rock School District

Luanne Blaylock, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Pulaski County Special School District

Kristen Buhler, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Northwest Regional ESD

Jo Ellen Croft, Educational Vision Specialist, Pulaski

County Special School District

Kate Dilworth, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments/Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Columbia Regional Program

Cay Holbrook, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia

Eleanor Pester, Braille Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind

Izetta Read, Teacher of Students With Visual Impairments, Santa Barbara County Education Office

Deanna Scoggins, Braille Reading Teacher, Kentucky School for the Blind, Retired

Mila Truan, Reading Specialist, Tennessee School for the Blind, Retired

Robin Wingell, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Santa Barbara County Education Office

Cathy Senft-Graves, Research Assistant, American Printing House for the Blind

-An overview of Building on Patterns, including how BOP incorporates important reading skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, fluency and oral vocabulary are addressed, along with skills necessary for braille reading and readiness; spelling, writing and ECC skills will also be discussed.

Grand Ballroom West

"Filling Your Mathematics Toolbox: Effective Strategies and Aids for TVIs"

Patricia Myers, Director, Teacher Certification Programs: Visual Impairments and Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Marshall University Graduate College

- Sharing the results of a national study which examined TVI's perceived level of the use/effectiveness of strategies and aids for student achievement in advanced mathematics, with a focus on strategies and aids found to be highly effective.

10:45 am - 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

"What Can the Field of Visual Science Tell Us About Readers With Low Vision?"

Marva Gellhaus, Low Vision Specialist, South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

- Visual science provides empirical data to explain why individuals with low vision have reading deficits; participants will be challenged to translate these findings into pedagogical applications and

discussion will center around extra time for exams, contrast polarity, the need for different critical print size for different tasks and more.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon B

“Improving Reading Speed and Comprehension Using Repeated Reading”

*Mackenzie Savaiano, Doctoral Student,
Vanderbilt University*

*Greg Aikens, Masters Student, Vanderbilt
University*

- A review of published and current research on the use of repeated reading to improve reading speed and comprehension skills of elementary and middle school students; the use of repeated reading as an instructional strategy, a self-monitoring tool, and a measure of reading progress will be demonstrated and material for using repeated reading in the classroom or at home will be provided.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon C

“Reading, But In The Best Way for Me: Interventions and Support for Development of Functional Literacy in Pupils with Severe Visual Impairments”

*Astrid Kristin Vik, Specialist Teacher and
Counselor for the Visually Impaired, Huseby
Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired*

- Results and practical outcomes from a Norwegian research project with 11 pupils, Grades 5 to 10, who were introduced to both braille and print; focus will be on factors influencing development of literacy, on interventions regarding the student's choice of reading media, and competence building for teachers, parents, and other professionals.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon D

“Using Low Vision Technology to Support Literacy”

*Ike Presley, National Project Manager,
American Foundation for the Blind*

-Practical tips on using today's technology to support literacy for youths, adults and seniors with low vision; demonstrations of some of the newest technologies for accessing information visually and auditorally will be provided.

Walnut Room

“I Read It, I Just Don't Get It”

*Frances Mary D'Andrea, Instructor, University
of Pittsburgh*

- Research-based, practical comprehension strategies for readers with visual impairments to ensure students can build vocabulary, answer literal and inference questions and apply critical thinking skills; designed for teachers of students, k-12, but primarily grades 3 and up.

Green Room

"Parents in Touch With Literacy: What Works"

Donna McNear, Independent Consultant

Denise Colton, Parent

Heather Jones, Parent

Kathy Pratt, Parent

- Hear the voices of parents who are active team members in implementing learning activities in braille and print literacy skills; information shared will cover a wide range of children from preschool through college who use braille and/or print, from having additional learning challenges to participating in higher level math/science content, and being visually impaired at birth to experiencing an ongoing vision loss during childhood.

Grand Ballroom East

"An Interwoven Developmental Approach: Early Literacy Experiences and the Expanded Core Curriculum"

Tanni Anthony, Supervisor of Low Incidence

Disabilities, Colorado Department of Education

JC Greeley, Program Coordinator, Anchor

Center for Blind Children

- Strategies to incorporate emergent literacy for young learners within the framework of the ECC; guidance and modeling for nurturing the development of literacy within daily routines at home and in early intervention program settings will be discussed, along with concepts basic to the ECC and the important role of families.

Grand Ballroom West

"Creating Literacy Skills Kits to Target the Expanded Core Curriculum"

Lisa Pruner, Education Consultant, State of

Connecticut Board of Education and Services

for the Blind

Catherine Summ, Education Consultant, State

of Connecticut Board of Education and Services

for the Blind

- Learn how to incorporate braille literacy and the expanded core curriculum in to a hands-on activity kit appropriate for preschool and early elementary students; examples of models kits will be provided and participants will have an opportunity to explore a variety of children's books and learn how to build their own kits.

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch On Your Own

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Medallion Ballroom
Salons ABC

Workplace Literacy Showcase Session

"Stepping Stones to Success"

*Vicki Buns, Director of Human Resources,
American Printing House for the Blind
Thomas Olzack, Manager of Youth and Career
Services, Braille Institute of America*

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

"Reading More Than Words: A Continuum of Skills for Teaching Tactile Graphics"

*Dawn Wilkinson, Teacher of Students with
Visual Impairments and Assistive Technology
Consultant, Easter Seals Arkansas
Lucia Hasty, Chief Executive Officer, Rocky
Mountain Braille Associates*

- Graphicacy is a significant component of literacy for students k-12 and developing competency in the techniques for decoding graphic representations requires direct instruction and opportunities for practice; first hand accounts of students learning to gather details presented graphically in textbooks, interpret data important to content, and perform well on standardized tests will help and the related conceptual challenges will be discussed.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon B

"Unlocking Literacy Potential: Validity, Consistency, and Administration Procedures of the National Reading Media Assessment"

*Jessica Bachicha, Project Coordinator,
Department of Affiliate Action, National
Federation of the Blind*

*Edward Bell, Director, Professional
Development and Research, Institute on
Blindness, Louisiana Tech University*

- Learn about the findings of the third field study of the the National Reading Media Assessment, the methods and results of the field tests process, and the conclusions about the NRMA's consistency and validity: ask questions of a teacher who has used this instrument during training, and gather information useful for parents, teachers, diagnosticians, and other professionals on how the assessment is administered.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon C

“Braille Reading – Developing The Decoding Skill”

*Catharine Johansson, National Agency for
Special Needs Education, Sweden*

*Anders Ronnback, Special Education Teacher,
National Agency for Special Needs Education,
Sweden*

- Describes the effects of a method for enhancing braille reading and improving decoding skills; the program was initially developed for struggling sighted readers and was then adapted for braille readers.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon D

“There Are Many Ways to Make A Thermometer: What We Learned From Analyzing Math Worksheets Prepared by Participants in a Research Study”

*L. Penny Rosenblum, Associate Professor of
Practice, University of Arizona*

*Tina Herzberg, Assistant Professor, Director of
Special Education-Visual Impairment Program,
University of South Carolina Upstate*

-Five math worksheets (1st, 3rd, 5th, geometry and algebra) were used in a study of methods used to prepare math problems and tactile graphics; 106 worksheets were analyzed to gather information related to literary braille, Nemeth braille, formatting, tactile graphics and transcriber's notes; commonalities and differences in how braille and tactile graphics were prepared will be shared and

there will be discussion of how the field can address the wide range of accuracy and quality evident in the samples.

Walnut Room

“Promoting Literacy for Students with Visual and Multiple Disabilities”

Betsy Flener, Independent Consultant, Low Vision Education Specialist

-Practice oriented information, coupled with a review of research, will provide teachers with technologies, programs, and materials to promote literacy for teachers of students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities; an emphasis on recent technology and discussion on needed future research will also be included.

Green Room

“Incorporating Literacy Skills Into a Young Child’s Life: It’s an Everyday Event!”

Melissa Evers, Preschool Teacher and Early Interventionist, Visually Impaired Preschool Services

Mary Lesousky, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments and Developmental Interventionist, Visually Impaired Preschool Services

Margaret Vinsel, IECE Developmental - Practice oriented strategies and activities to encourage infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to actively participate in meaningful literacy experiences; demonstrations of ways to work literacy concepts and activities into a child's every day life will be included.

Grand Ballroom East

“Expanded Core Curriculum: Literacy Strategies for Education and Employment”

Mary Ann Siller, National Consultant in Blindness and Low Vision Services, World Alliance for Visual Empowerment

Karen Blankenship, Assistant Professor of the Practice, Vanderbilt University

Kay Ratzlaff, Coordinator of Instructional Resource Services, Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired

Karen Ross, Director, Education Services, Carroll Center for the Blind

-Research indicates students with visual impairment who graduate from high school and attend college continue to have low employment rates; low levels of student acquisition of essential ECC skills are possibly part of the employment and instructional literacy problem, so instruction in ECC content areas can be the solution; implementation strategies in six ECC instructional literacy features will be discussed.

Grand Ballroom West

“A Tactile Approach to Accessing Apple Devices”

Larry Lewis, President, Flying Blind LLC

- Introduction to Apple portable and handheld computers and how they are used in the classroom; learn how Apple's built in screenreading access enables blind users to use the latest technology to access the same applications in the same fashion as their sighted peers.

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Medallion Ballroom
Salons ABC

Awards Banquet and Auction

Awards Presentations

Silent Auction

Live Auction

Saturday, December 10

8:00 am – 9:30 am
Medallion Ballroom
Salons ABC

Breakfast and Poster Sessions

- **Experiencing Language** - *Galena Gaw, Director, Library/Media Services, South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind*
- **The Hadley School for the Blind: Methods of Teaching Braille to Children and Adults** - *Judy Matsuoka, Instructor, Hadley School for the Blind*

- **The Investigation of the Effectiveness of Using the Wilson Reading System with Braille Readers** - Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, Assistant Professor, California State University, Los Angeles; Jeanette Wicker, Core Curriculum Project Consultant, American Printing House for the Blind
- **It All Started with a Sleeping Bag: Using An Artistic Means to Literacy** - Anna Clara Gayle, Art and ELA Instructor, Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired
- **Location Literacy: Accessible GPS Overview and Comparison** - Jerry Kuns, Technology Specialist, California School for the Blind; Mike May, President and CEO, Sendero Group, LLC
- **Making Tactile Books for Preschool Students with Visual Impairments and Blindness** - Christine Moe, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, University of Northern Colorado
- **The Migel Library** - Michael Hudson, Curator, The Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind; Matthew Rummele, Special Collections Librarian, American Printing House for the Blind
- **Moon: An Alternative, Tactile, Literacy Option** - Gina Fugate, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Madison County Schools
- **The Parent Perspective: The Mountbatten Learning System, a Critical Tool in the Braille Literacy Tool Box** - Donna McNear, Independent Consultant; Denise Colton, Parent; Heather Jones, Parent; Kathy Pratt, Parent
- **Power In Partnership: Placing More Books in the Hands of Young Children with Visual Impairments** - Suzette Wright, Emergent Literacy Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind

- **Reaching Today's Struggling Readers with Accessible Digital Books and Technology** - *Kristina King Cohen, Education Project Manager, Bookshare*
- **The Role of BANA and the Evolution of Braille** - *Frances Mary D'Andrea, Chair, Education and Outreach Committee, Braille Authority of North America; Judy Dixon, Chair, Braille Authority of North America*
- **Test Literacy: Do Your Students Know the Vocabulary of Testing?** - *Barbara Henderson, Test and Assessment Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind*
- **Top Dot** – *Ruth McKinney, Director of Braille Publishing, Braille Institute of America; Sue Parker Strafaci, Child Development Director, Braille Institute of America*
- **Touching the Design of an APH Product** - *Karen Poppe, Tactile Graphics Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind*
- **Using the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) to Teach Requesting with Tangible Symbols** - *Sarah Ivy, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University*

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon A

Concurrent Sessions

“Down and Dirty Data: Data Collection Strategies for the Real World”

Tessa Wright, Assistant Professor of Practice, University of Nebraska – Lincoln

- Data collection is vital to making and justifying decisions about educational programming for students with visual impairments; data collection strategies for busy classroom teachers who don't have time for data collection will be provided.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon B

"Create Stunning Tactile Graphics with Phoenix and Firebird"

Lucia Hasty, Chief Executive Officer, Rocky Mountain Braille Associates

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon C

"Response to Intervention (RtI) For Students with Visual Impairments"

Betsy Flener, Independent Consultant and Low Vision Education Specialist

- Information on how to address the needs of students with visual impairments at each tier of Response to Intervention; an overview will be provided along with information about evidence-based literacy programs adapted for students with visual impairments and about adapting programs from other disability areas.

Mezzanine Ballroom
Salon D

"All Students Can Achieve 3000 and Beyond: Implementing the Achieve3000 Web-Based Reading Program with Visually Impaired Students"

Helen Boduch Hahn, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Kansas State School for the Blind

Steven Hahn, Adaptive Technology Specialist, Kansas State School for the Blind

- Discussion of the Achieve3000, a web-based reading program for a diverse population of students, grades 3 -12, used by students at the Kansas State School for the Blind; gains in reading levels, technology proficiency, and state assessment scores will be discussed.

Walnut Room

"Applying the Results of the ABC Braille Study to Real Life Teaching: One Teacher's Interpretation"

Anna Swenson, Braille Literacy Consultant, Fairfax County Public Schools

-Summarizes the results of the ABC Braille Study, the first longitudinal research focused on the acquisition of literacy skills by young children; practical strategies for introducing contractions, teaching conventional spelling, promoting fluency, and building vocabulary and comprehension will be covered and participants will be encouraged to comment on the study and to share their own ideas to help students achieve literacy goals.

Green Room

“Talking to Young Children with Visual Impairments: Implications for Oral Language Comprehension in the Preschool Classroom”

Adam Wilton, Doctoral Student, University of British Columbia

Catherine Greeley-Bennett, Doctoral Student, Florida State University

- Outlines research into the language interactions of young children with visual impairments, especially language comprehension during play situations; evidence-based strategies for promoting oral language comprehension and implications for teachers will be discussed, and suggestions for consulting with preschool teachers to promote rich, appropriate language input will be included.

Grand Ballroom East

“Lightbox to Literacy for Students Who Have CVI”

Christine Roman, Director, Pediatric View, Western Pennsylvania Hospital, and CVI Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind

- Methods and materials to assist vision educators in determining whether a student who has cortical visual impairment (CVI) will be able to read; a sequence of activities that begins with light box activities and then progress toward simple books, communication/symbol systems, and ultimately beginning reading activities will be discussed.

Grand Ballroom West

“What Should We Say When.....”

Cay Holbrook, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia

Kim Zebehazy, Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia

- The power in a unified, professional, well thought out message can help defend the vital importance of braille or respond to an administrator questioning how much time should be spent with a beginning braille reader; common literacy related questions and issues will be identified and handouts supporting suggested responses will be provided.

10:15 am - 10:30 am

Break/Check Out

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Medallion Ballroom

Salons ABC

Social Media Literacy Showcase Session

“Getting Social About Literacy”

*Jason Falls, Chief Executive Officer, Exploring
Social Media*

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm

Medallion Ballroom

Salons ABC

Closing Remarks

Janie Blome

Jane Thompson