



Creating Early Literacy Opportunities with UDL APH

GITWL

Leslie Weilbacher

Outreach Specialist Northwest Region
American Printing House for the Blind

Stephanie Walker

Outreach Specialist Southwest Region
American Printing House for the Blind

Objectives

- Participants will be able to explain the importance of multi-sensory strategies in teaching literacy to early learners who are blind or have low vision.
- Participants will be able to describe at least three universally designed materials and how they can be used to support literacy instruction.
- Participants will be able to combine universally designed materials to create a multi-sensory literacy lesson for learners.

UDL, MSAL, HLP

What's it all mean?

“Play is the work of children.”- Jean Piaget

Universal Design for Learning

Affective Networks: The WHY of Learning

- Engagement
 - Purposeful & motivated
 - Stimulate interest and motivation for learning

Recognition Networks: The WHAT of Learning

- Representation
 - Resourceful & knowledgeable
 - Present information and content in different ways

Strategic Networks: The HOW of Learning

- Action & Expression
 - Strategic & goal-directed
 - Differentiate the ways that students can express what they know

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Research Says

UDL-based instruction has been shown to improve learners' academic achievement:

- among learners with and without disabilities
- across different age groups
- in all subject areas

[\(The IRIS Center, 2009, 2023\)](#)

Planning for UDL

Designing a learning experience using a UDL lens is an iterative process. Educators can make small changes and apply the UDL framework throughout the learning experience as they:

- Proactively design—before instruction
- Implement—during instruction
- Reflect and redesign—after instruction

[\(The IRIS Center, 2009, 2023\)](#)

Key Questions to Consider

Does the lesson provide options for:

- self-regulated learning?
- sustaining effort and motivation?
- engaging and interesting all learners?

Does the information allow all learners to:

- reach higher levels of comprehension and understanding?
- understand symbols and expressions?
- perceive what needs to be learned?

Does the activity allow all learners to:

- engage in strategic thinking?
- communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively?
- physically participate and interact?

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Multi-Sensory Approach to Learning

- Auditory
- Visual
- Tactile
- Kinesthetic



The UDL principle of multimodal representation, combining actions and expressions with active engagement in learning experiences, is necessary for children with sensory impairments.

High-Leverage Practices

HLPs are foundational, research-based practices that improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

- UDL includes identifying and implementing educational and assistive technologies, a high-leverage practice in special education.
- HLP19 - uses assistive and instructional technologies, including using UDL principles to select, design, implement, and evaluate student outcomes.
- DEC E2 - Create accessible environments using UDL principles

Early Childhood Products

Reach and Match Learning Kit



- Play-based learning program
- Children of all abilities
- Physical, cognitive,
- Language and
- Social-emotional skills
- Support well-being and learning journey.

Braille, Large Print, Texture, and Sound



- A - G red circles, raised circles.
- H - N blue triangles, wavy lines
- -T green square, straight lines
- U - Z, yellow pentagon, lines with rounded corners.
- texture like a grain of rice, texture like a brick
- Each color has a different sound

Make the Connection to Braille by Goin' on a Bear Hunt



- Lay mats, tiles, and pillow out in a line
- Green = grass, blue = river, red = mud, yellow = forest/leaves
- Shake tiles = snow
- Round pillow = cave
- As you read the book, travel along the mats

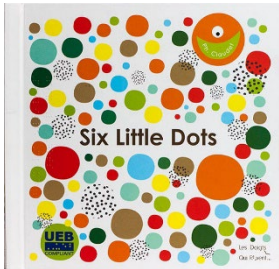


Hop-A-Dot Mat



- Social interaction skills
- Self-expression
- Creativity
- Physical activity
- Body awareness
- Spatial concepts

Make the Connection to Braille Six Little Dots



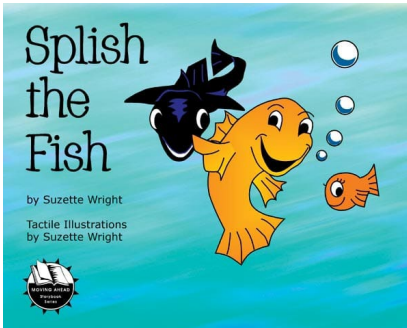
“Meet Little Dot . . . he can hop from spot to spot!”

- Texture-rich storybook about braille fundamentals
- The six most famous dots in all of literacy

Hop Along

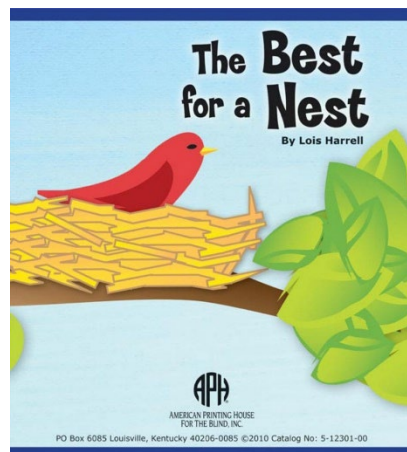
[Video of Book](#)

Make the Connection to Braille with Splish



- Splish was between his friends Finny and Dee
 - dot 2 and dot 5
- Splish was above
 - Dot 1 and dot 4
- Splish was below
 - dot 3 and dot 6

Best for a Nest



- Book in print and braille
- Storyboard with tree, leaves, birds, nests, eggs, grass, and a cat

Concepts

- Counting
- Left and Right
- Top and Bottom
- Make story boxes
- Sticks, leaves, Feathers
- Find a bird nest



Five Little Speckled Frogs



- Counting, algebraic thinking, sorting
- Colorful visual and tactile illustrations for all
- Encourages exploration and pretend play
- Complements children's rhyme

Share your ideas...

Braille Tales

APH's free [Braille Tales program](#) provides print books with clear braille labels over each page to children ages 0-5 who are blind or have low vision. The program is also open to families with parents/guardians who are blind or have low vision.

Resources and Reach out!



Use this QR Code to access a folder of resources

Virtual offerings

Access Academy, APH Hive

For the Professionals

- Your one-stop resource for the meaningful education and training webinars you need to get the most out of APH products and services
- Live and recorded

Information for Classroom, Home, and Workplace

- Tutorials on new products
- Hacks on how to get the most from your beloved technology
- Information on resources, services, and programs
- ACVREP credit for live events

Learning Management System

The Benefits



- One-stop shop for professional development
- FREE
- ACVREP credit
- Resources
- Self-paced learning
- Peer reviewed

Course Catalog

- Foundations
- Assessment
- Early Childhood
- Core Curriculum
- Expanded Core Curriculum

Thank you

APH Outreach - outreach@aph.org

Leslie Weilbacher - lweilbacher@aph.org

Stephanie Walker - swalker@aph.org

Resources for Creating Early Literacy Opportunities with Universal Design for Learning APH

Research

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Product Support

- [Reach and Match](#)
- [Reach and Match Video](#)
- [Reach and Match Blog](#)
- [Reach and Match Blog 2](#)
- [Reach and Match Blog 3](#)
- [Building your Early Literacy Tool Kit Blog](#)
- [Going on a Bear Hunt Webpage](#)
- [Hop a Dot Webpage](#)
- [Six Little Dots Webpage](#)
- [Splish the Fist Webpage](#)

General APH Resources

- [Braille Tales program](#)
- [National Prison Braille Network](#)
- [Museum](#)
- [Migel Library](#)
- [Hall of Fame](#)
- [InSights Art Contest](#)
- [Accessibility Hub](#)
- [NIMAC](#)
- [Louis Database](#)
- [Tactile Graphics Image Library](#)