

**APH Products and Services  
for the**

# **Getting in Touch With Literacy (GITWL)**

**2023 Conference**



**AMERICAN  
PRINTING  
HOUSE** 

# Braille Solutions and Tactile Skills

## Monarch™

APH, HumanWare, and NFB have partnered to develop the [Monarch](#), formally referred to as the DTD, a self-contained standalone tactile tablet capable of running a multitude of apps optimized for enhancing the efficiency of a blind or low vision user. This device will also be capable of rendering multiple lines of braille and tactile graphics on the same tactile surface, which in turn will skyrocket braille literacy, efficiency, and accessibility. This tool will help level the playing field for students, enabling them to receive braille instructional materials at the touch of a download button instead of waiting weeks or months for embossed braille textbooks to be transcribed and shipped. To receive the latest announcements regarding APH's Monarch, please sign up for our [Mailing List](#).

In addition to running its own apps, APH and HumanWare will be working with strategic partners to utilize an SDK being developed, beginning in 2024 to create apps and experiences we haven't yet thought of. If your organization is interested in developing for this exciting tool, please contact the team at [DTD@aph.org](mailto:DTD@aph.org).

## Building on Patterns (BOP)

[BOP](#) is a systematic, comprehensive, and balanced literacy program designed to teach young children who are blind or low vision to read and write using braille. The series addresses phonemic awareness (ability to hear and interpret sounds in speech), phonics (the association of written symbols with the sounds they represent), comprehension, fluency, and oral vocabulary, all of which have been identified as important for reading instruction. BOP also addresses specific skill areas, such as language development, sound discrimination, tactual discrimination, and concept development.

## Lego® Braille Bricks

The LEGO Braille Bricks concept is a playful methodology that teaches Braille to children who are blind or low vision. Each colorful LEGO brick is molded with studs that correspond to numbers and letters in the braille alphabet and has a corresponding printed symbol or letter. This is a fun and engaging way to teach

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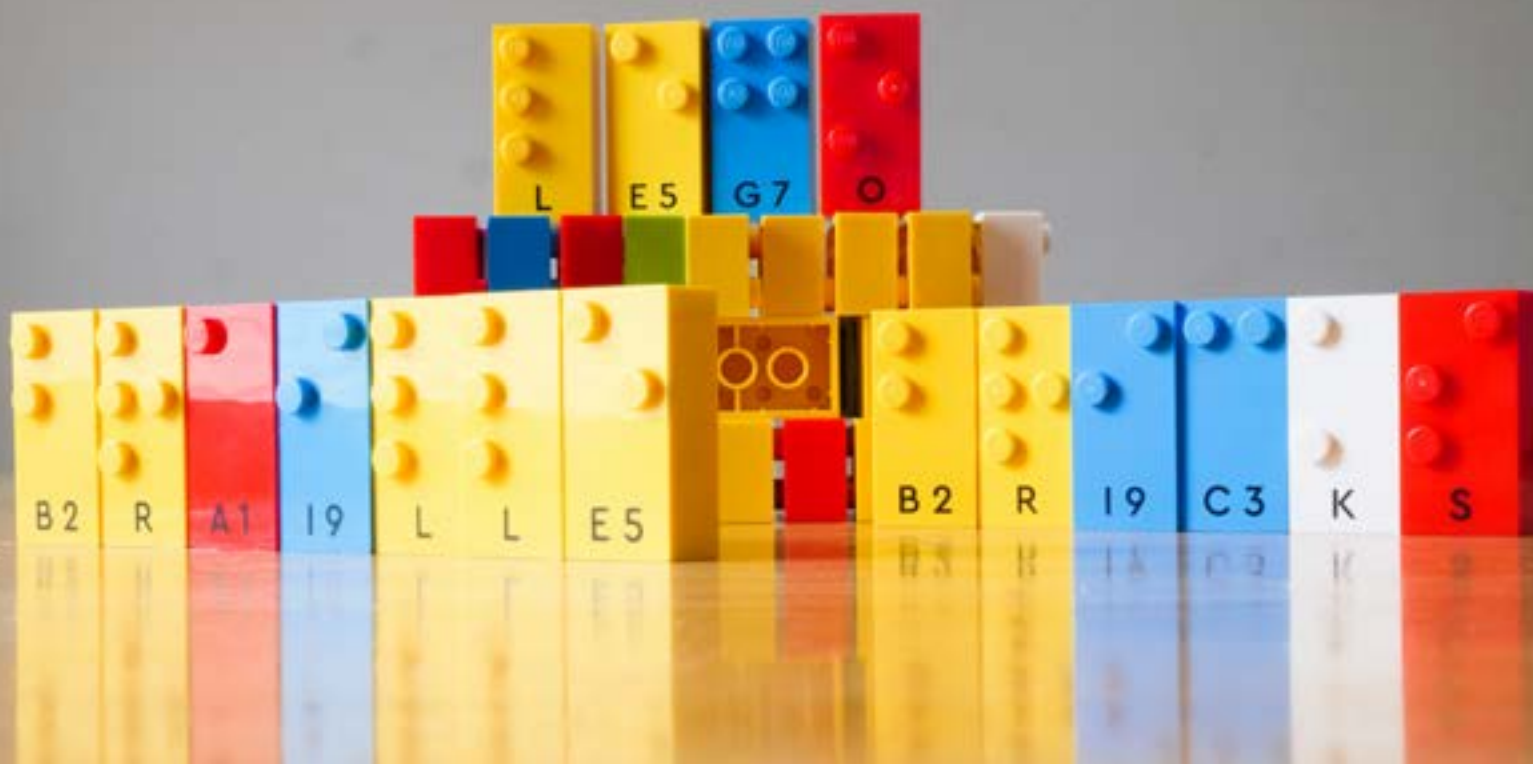
young children braille! Complete the [request form](#) linked to this description and receive LEGO Braille Bricks for free!

## Lots of Dots: Coloring the Garden

[This book](#) presents a variety of fruits, vegetables, and herbs, and introduces picture building. The book begins with an empty garden. Each page adds a new feature, i.e., clouds, rain, seeds, and plants. Once the garden has grown, a new garden item is introduced on each page for the child to color. The enrichment activities are simple recipes that the child and parents/siblings/teachers can do together. The activities present daily living skills, such as planning, organizing, and food preparation. This book uses uncontracted braille and contracted braille where applicable and includes a UEB enrichment guide.

## Reach & Match® Learning Kit & Alphabet Tiles

The [Reach & Match Learning Kit](#) provides toddler training for manual dexterity and identifying tactile patterns. It provides preschoolers with braille and print learning, motor development, direction, and spatial awareness training. Originally created for children with BVI, a preliminary review revealed that children with autism also enjoy playing and learning with Reach & Match.



# Braille Solutions and Tactile Skills

Each Reach & Match Learning Kit includes four large puzzle piece mats, one side of each mat features a texture with a tactile pattern that matches corresponding alphabet tiles. The other side of the mats have the same texture but with a recessed white path. There are cut-out shapes that correspond to the same tiles.

Additional [Alphabet Tiles](#) may be purchased as a supplement to the kit. Each of the 26 tiles has a corresponding shape, color, texture, sound, and tactile marking to represent a different letter in the English alphabet.

To learn more, please visit [reachandmatch.com](https://reachandmatch.com).

## TactileDoodle

Use [TactileDoodle](#) to quickly generate tactile, raised-line graphics to convey a variety of concepts or art within the classroom or at home, including:

- Demonstrate a variety of concepts related to science, math, geography, etc.
- Illustrate spatial concepts and simple maps
- Practice handwriting skills
- Play interactive games (e.g., tic-tac-toe)
- Complete more open-ended, artistic drawing activities
- Practice tracing skills (e.g., tracing within a stencil or around a 3D object).
- Provide tactile illustrations during teachable moments

## Word PlayHouse

Use [Word PlayHouse](#) to teach beginning phonics and reading skills including letter recognition, braille code recognition, decoding, vocabulary, and spelling skills.

# Braille Literacy

## Five Little Speckled Frogs

Part of the On the Way to Literacy book series, [Five Little Speckled Frogs](#) is a fun and engaging early childhood book based on a familiar children's rhyme. This read-aloud tactile storybook incorporates both large print and contracted UEB text. It is designed to introduce early counting concepts, develop key literacy skills, and encourage imaginative play. Included in the book are a storyboard and pieces that can be used by the reader to bring the story to life with an additional layer of tactile exploration.

## A Tail for Baby Lizard

Adventure alongside [Baby Lizard](#) in this colorful and tactile story book as he searches for a suitable replacement tail after losing his own. As readers progress through the story, various tails are presented to Baby Lizard with the original owner of the tail shown immediately after. Upon conclusion, Baby Lizard will have picked out his new tail.



# Braille Literacy

## Quick-Check: Index of Literacy Braille Signs

[Quick Check](#) has been updated to UEB! This reference booklet includes the most recent updates to the American, English Braille Code approved by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA). This booklet contains the most commonly used literary braille contractions, such as alphabetic word signs, one-cell contractions, lower-cell contractions, short-forms, punctuation, and other UEB symbols.

## Flip-Over Concept Books

These tactile literacy books provide interactive and independent learning for young children as they build basic concepts and develop early tactile skills.

### TELLING TIME

This book portrays side-by-side representations of both analog and digital clocks that students can independently set, compare, and read themselves. The movable hour and minute hands on the analog clock creates a hands-on learning experience that makes telling time interactive and enjoyable. Flip-Over Concept Books: TELLING TIME is available in both [UEB](#) and [NEMETH](#) versions.

### FRACTIONS

Flip-Over Concept Books: FRACTIONS (available in [UEB](#) and [NEMETH](#)) is an interactive print and tactile book for students with blindness or low vision who are beginning to learn about fractions, decimals, and percents. It includes panels with tactile and print pie charts, fractions, decimals, percents, and comparison signs. The student then flips through the panels until the desired fractional, decimal, or percentage representations are found and displayed.



## APH Press

The [APH Press](#) carries on the legacy of AFB Press as the leading publisher in the field of blindness and low vision. APH Press publishes educational content, including textbooks for teacher preparatory programs in the field of blindness and low vision to support teachers, families, and other professionals.

### **Babies with CVI: Nurturing Visual Abilities and Development in Early Childhood (Print and EPUB Editions)**

[Babies with CVI](#) presents specific approaches, strategies, and activity suggestions that families and low vision professionals can use to meet the unique learning needs of a child with CVI. This guide includes the history and best practices related to the treatment of CVI in children from birth to 36 months.

### **Guidelines and Games for Teaching Efficient Braille Reading (Print and EPUB Editions)**

This second edition of [Guidelines and Games](#) offers unique ideas for adapting a general reading program to the needs of braille readers. This book has been updated to reflect advances in technology that have made braille more accessible in a digital format, such as refreshable braille devices, digital notetakers, and translation software.

### **ECC Essentials: Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum to Students with Visual Impairments (Print and EPUB Editions)**

[ECC Essentials](#) is the first comprehensive book for teachers of students with visual impairments to focus on the nine areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) that encompass the unique skills children and adolescents with visual impairments need to learn in order to access the core educational curriculum and become independent individuals, by providing the rationale, suggestions, and strategies necessary to implement instruction.

## **I-M-ABLE: Individualized Meaning-Centered Approach to Braille Literacy Education (Print and EPUB Editions)**

[I-M-ABLE](#) is an innovative, individualized, student-centered method for teaching braille and making it exciting for children who have difficulties learning braille. In this teaching approach, instruction is centered on continuously analyzing the strengths and needs of students, placing particular emphasis on engaging them using key vocabulary words and phrases based on their experiences and interests.

## **Keys to Educational Success: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities (Print and EPUB Editions)**

Every student has unique learning needs, but addressing the diverse needs of students who are blind or low vision and have multiple disabilities can be particularly challenging. [Keys to Educational Success](#) helps educators unlock the learning potential of their students by providing key program strategies that can be directly applied to their classroom learning routines.

## **Reading Connections: Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (Print and EPUB Editions)**

An in-depth and user-friendly guide for understanding reading instruction for teachers and professionals seeking to improve the reading skills of their students who are blind or low vision. [Reading Connections](#) addresses the needs of students who read print, braille, or both, and is consistent with the methods for teaching reading to students who have, or are at risk for developing, reading disabilities.

For related texts and the entire suite of APH Press books, please visit our [APH Press Catalog](#).



# APH Services/Resources



Welcome to the [APH ConnectCenter](#)! This website offers FREE curated advice and resources to assist children, parents, adults, and job seekers who are blind or low vision, and their associated professionals. Through this website, you are able to access these ConnectCenter resources and much more:

- [FamilyConnect](#): Find support and resources for families of children who are blind or low vision.
- [CareerConnect](#): Find employment information, tools, and guidance for job seekers who are blind or low vision or for employers who work with individuals who are blind or low vision.
- [VisionAware](#): Designed for adults and seniors who are living with vision loss.
- ConnectCalendar: For use by the entire blindness field to find and promote events, all in one place. [Promote and share](#) your organization's event by adding it to the Calendar or [discover upcoming events](#).
- [APH ConnectCenter Transition Hub](#): Planning for graduation and life after school brings up a lot of questions. Find information about transition programs that emphasize empowerment, career exploration, and work experiences for teens and young adults who are blind or low vision.

Have questions related to blindness or vision loss? Call APH's Information & Referral Hotline: (800) 232-5463 or e-mail us at [connectcenter@aph.org](mailto:connectcenter@aph.org).

# APH Services/Resources

## APH Hive

Buzz over to the [APH Hive](#), APH's FREE eLearning platform for educators and families that can be accessed at any time from the comfort of your home or office. With a growing course catalog covering categories like Early Childhood, Expanded Core Curriculum, and more, we want to give you the tools you need to support students. All you have to do is sign up, watch the course content at your leisure, and complete the follow up assignment to get your certificate for ACVREP credit! [Register and get started today.](#)

## Outreach Services

[APH's Outreach Services](#) team strives to increase awareness about the many resources and services offered by APH. These include, but are not limited to, the following: distance learning and statewide/nationwide training opportunities; exhibits and presentations at regional, statewide, and national conferences; expanded core curriculum academies/professional learning communities, and parent and family training opportunities. Outreach Services consists of three branches:

- Outreach Specialists for regional support.
- APH Hive for professional development.
- Census for the federal quota program.

APH continues to expand its reach through our strategically placed Regional Specialists. Regional Specialists meet the unique needs of EOTs, professionals, families, and other service providers working with students who are blind or low vision by providing tailored support to communities. These experienced professionals are charged with sharing craft knowledge across the field, building local networks of support, assisting with APH products and services, and facilitating solutions. Regional Specialists are available to provide support at conferences, regional Braille Challenges, colleges/universities, public and private schools, rehabilitation centers and more.

# APH Services/Resources

## APH Accessible Tests and Textbooks

To best serve our customers, the [Accessible Tests & Textbooks Department](#) offers a wide range of services. APH responds to the textbook needs of students who are blind or low vision by delivering custom-produced accessible textbooks in a variety of media in a timely manner. Accessible Textbooks staff process all-new textbook orders. Additionally, APH is prepared to assist with all phases of test accessibility, from item development and bias review through production, shipping, and product support. Tests offered through this department can be ordered in hard copy braille, large print, and in digital formats. Accessible Tests also reviews online testing for accessibility to ensure all tests are accessible for all customers.



**Thank  
You for  
Supporting  
APH**

As a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, APH values our thoughtful, informed donors who ensure that we are able to serve a growing population of people of all ages who are blind or low vision – across the nation and around the world. Our programs, initiatives, services, and products empower people with vision loss to live as independently as possible. Your contribution makes that happen. You are a part of the APH community – and we are truly grateful for your partnership. Please donate at [bit.ly/donateaph](https://bit.ly/donateaph) or contact the APH Development Department by phone at 502-899-2351 or email at [development@aph.org](mailto:development@aph.org).

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