Resources for Teaching Braille

Resources for Early Literacy and Pre-Braille

- [The Development of Tactile Skills | Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)
- [Literacy for Little Ones | Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)
- [Emergent Literacy – Paths to Literacy](#)
- [Pre-Braille Assessment – Paths to Literacy](#)
- [The Queensland Braille Progression and Assessment Tool – Paths to Literacy](#)

Pre-Braille

Turning on Touch Thinking
- Created by Donna McNear, Independent Educational Consultant from Minnesota
- <u>More information</u>: Ask your mentor
- <u>Target student</u>: "This instructional tool provides a road map to transition a student from tactile discrimination of common objects to fine tactile discrimination of braille symbols leading to accurate braille letter identification. It is designed for use with students who are learning braille and have delayed expressive language and benefit from the following learning strategies: structured learning, procedures and routines, and predictability" (from Donna McNear's introduction).
- <u>Notes</u>: Turning on Touch Thinking works well with students who have not been transitioning to discrimination of braille symbols in a "traditional" way.

Building on Patterns – Prekindergarten
- Ordering: American Printing House for the Blind (APH) through the Ogden Resource Center (ORC).
- More information: Building on Patterns: Prekindergarten
- Cost: available at no charge to districts through Quota Funds; order through the ORC.
- Target student: Building on Patterns (BOP) Pre-K level is a "comprehensive program that builds literacy skills related to listening, speaking, reading, and writing in preparation for kindergarten. It incorporates the unique needs of young braille learners throughout the lessons" (BOP Pre-K).
- Notes: BOP Pre-K is an extensive program. Parts of it can be used to supplement what a student is learning in the pre-K class.

Braille Curricula

Mangold
- Ordering: from Exceptional Teaching
- More information for Units 1&2: Mangold Units 1 & 2
  - Cost: $349 for basic Units 1&2, which teach tracking and the alphabet.
  - Target student: intended to introduce the basics of tactile tracking and the letters of the alphabet for students of any age who are new to learning braille.
- More information for Unit 3: Mangold Unit 3
  - Cost: $655 for the complete set of Unit 3, which teaches all the UEB contractions.
- Notes: The Mangold tracking and alphabet activities in Units 1&2 may not be motivating for young students who are new to braille.

BrailleBlazer – Beginning Braille Reading Activity Book
- Ordering: from Actual Tactuals Braille
- More information: [BrailleBlazer | ActualTactuals](#)
- Cost: around $400 depending on format
- Target student: BrailleBlazer is for students who have been exposed to tracking and tactile recognition skills and can identify the braille alphabet letters. This curriculum is for beginning braille readers of any age. It promotes development of tactile and tracking skills and helps students become familiar with basic words and become confident readers.
- Notes: An important part of this book is a "Lesson" just for teachers who are beginning to teach braille or those that have not taught it in a while. It will help refresh the "braille brain."

Building on Patterns
- Ordering: American Printing House for the Blind (APH) through the Ogden Resource Center (ORC)
- More information: [Building on Patterns (aphbop.org)](#)
- Cost: available at no charge to districts through Quota Funds; order through the ORC.
- Target student: Building on Patterns (BOP) offers Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade levels. Building on Patterns is a systematic, comprehensive, and balanced literacy program designed to teach young children with visual impairments to read and write using braille. BOP is a full reading curriculum that includes instruction in vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, phonemic awareness, and phonics. BOP addresses the following critical skills: language development, sound discrimination, tactual discrimination, hands-on concept development.
- Notes: Building on Patterns can be the primary reading curriculum for a braille reading student or can be used in parts to supplement the curriculum being used in the general or special education classroom.

Braille Too
- Ordering: from Brl2 Publishing
- More information: [The Next Generation (brl2.com)](http://brl2.com)
- Cost: $500 for a USB drive that contains all teacher and student materials that can be printed and embossed.
- Target student: intended to teach students who need to learn braille after already learning how to read with print. Braille Too teaches the braille code but does not include any general literacy instruction.
- Notes: Braille Too can work well with a student who is motivated to learn braille. Other students who are not as motivated may find the lessons repetitive, and will need to have supplemental exciting and rewarding activities added in.

I-M-Able
- Ordering: American Printing House for the Blind (APH) through the Ogden Resource Center (ORC)
- More information: [I-M-ABLE Kit](#) (includes manual)
- Cost: the kit is available at no charge to districts through Quota Funds; order through the ORC.
- Target student: The I-M-ABLE book and accompanying kit materials are designed to motivate, engage, and reward children who are candidates for braille reading instruction, but who are struggling with the beginning stages of learning letters and sounds. Teachers will find this resource invaluable for helping students with mild to moderate cognitive impairments, or other difficulties, make progress in braille reading and writing.
- Notes: The manual is available separately, but not with Quota Funds: [I-M-ABLE Manual](#)

Other Options:

Edmark
- Edmark is a reading program for students who need an alternative to phonics. The key to this success is the program's use of a carefully sequenced, highly repetitive word recognition method combined with errorless learning.
- If you work in a district that owns the Edmark program, it is very easy to adapt into braille. A TSVI or Braillist will need to transcribe the program into braille.
- Using Edmark is similar to using I-M-ABLE, but with a set vocabulary. Edmark can work for students who are struggling to learn braille with a traditional curriculum like Building on Patterns.
- More information: [Edmark Reading Program: Homepage - Outside the Box Learning Resources (otb.ie)](#)

Read Right
- If your school uses Read Right, it is easy to adapt into braille.
- More information: [Read Right | Online Tutoring & On-site Staff Training](#)

<u>Tracking Braille Progress</u>
- [Braille Assessment Checklist – Paths to Literacy](#)
- [Braille Authority Checklist](#)

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