PLAYFUL EXPERIENCES FOR PRE-BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

LEGO BRAILLE BRICKS series
Cleveland County Schools (NC)

Yvonne Franz
• Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
• Assistive Technology Coordinator
Objectives

• Identify 5 Holistic Skills that children develop during play which is critical to learning.
• Identify 5 Characteristics of Playful Learning Experiences.
• Observe students engaged in play-based learning activities using LEGO Braille Bricks.
• Discriminate 3 types of pre-braille activities: manipulation, orientation, and constellation.
HOLISTIC SKILLS
Cognitive

- Concentration
- Problem solving
- Working memory
- Flexible thinking
Creative

- Coming up with ideas
- Transforming ideas into reality
- Ok with ambiguity
- Exploring possibilities
- Identifying the best solution
Physical

• Physically active
• Understanding movement and space
• Developing spatial understanding
• Nurturing an active, healthy body
Social

• Collaboration
• Communication
• Sharing ideas
• Negotiating rules
• Building empathy
Emotional

- Understand emotions
- Manage emotions
- Build self-awareness
- Handle impulses
- Stay motivated in the face of difficulties
What holistic skill is identified by exploring possibilities?

1. Cognitive
2. Creative
3. Physical
4. Social
5. Emotional
CHARACTERISTICS OF PLAYFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES
Actively Engaging

- Absorbed in playing
- Actively imagining
- Mental immersion
- Resistance to distraction
Meaningful

• Relate new experiences to something already known
• Play by imitation
• Using media, symbols and tools
Socially Interactive

- Communicating thoughts
- Understanding others
- Sharing ideas
- Building relationships
Joyful

• Negative or neutral emotions may be present
• Frustration resolved by breakthrough
• Power of surprise
• Thrill of the unexpected
Iterative

• Trying out possibilities
• Revising hypotheses
• Discovering the next question
Which characteristic of playful learning experiences is described as mental emersion and resistance to distraction?

1. Actively engaging
2. Meaningful
3. Socially interactive
4. Joyful
5. Iterative
APH Hive (www.aphhive.org)

LEGO® Braille Bricks
Play-Based Teaching Method

Marc Angelier
Marie Oddoux
Per Havgaard
Paige Maynard
PRE-BRAILLE ACTIVITIES
Manipulation

Discover and get used to the bricks, learn how to handle, assemble and put them on the base plate.
Orientation

Learn how to position the bricks on the base plate and be aware that their orientation is important.
Constellation

Discover the braille cell and how studs are arranged in two columns. Learn how to differentiate the studs.
PLAY-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Feed a Caterpillar - Manipulation

• Materials
  ✓ 10 random bricks
  ✓ Bowl

• Holistic skills
  ✓ Physical
  ✓ Cognitive
Find a Friend - Manipulation

• Materials
  ✓ Base plate
  ✓ 10 random bricks
  ✓ Bowl

• Holistic skills
  ✓ Physical
  ✓ Creative
  ✓ Cognitive
Manipulation Ideas

Please share your ideas in the chat!
Build a Rectangle Tower - Orientation

- Materials
  - 1 base plate
  - 48 random bricks (+3 studs)
  - Bowl

- Holistic skills
  - Physical
  - Creative
  - Cognitive
  - Emotional
  - Social
Park the Car - Orientation

• Materials
  ✓ 1 base plate
  ✓ 4 letter bricks pairs: B, Q, A, D
  ✓ 16 random braille or classic bricks
  ✓ Bowl

• Holistic skills
  ✓ Physical
  ✓ Creative
  ✓ Cognitive
  ✓ Emotional
  ✓ Social
Orientation Ideas

Please share your ideas in the chat!
6 Car Parking Lot - Constellation

- **Materials**
  - ✓ 1 base plate
  - ✓ All bricks
  - ✓ 2 dice

- **Holistic skills**
  - ✓ Physical
  - ✓ Creative
  - ✓ Cognitive
  - ✓ Social
Twin Friends - Constellation

- **Materials**
  - ✓ 1 base plate
  - ✓ 5 pairs: S, E, T, U, #
  - ✓ 1 small bag

- **Holistic skills**
  - ✓ Physical
  - ✓ Creative
  - ✓ Cognitive
Constellation Ideas

Please share your ideas in the chat!
Upcoming Presentations

1:00 – 2:00 pm Eastern Time

• February 24, Brick-by-Brick Literacy
• March 10, More Playful Experiences for Pre-Braille Instruction
• March 17, Brick-by-Brick Numeracy
PLAYFUL EXPERIENCES FOR PRE-BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

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