CONSULTANTS'



WINTER 2015 Volume 17 Issue 2

R Editorial Staff: Indira Dillon, Susan Egging, Dawn LaMee, Amy Scepaniak, and Julie VanDover

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SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Family Fun

The Aberdeen Area Family Support Group met in December for some fun at the School just prior to the Christmas Program and lunch. They made tactile and tags for braille gift family Christmas gifts. It was fun to see all the creativity come alive.





The parents and grandparents were also shown a new board game from APH called "Game of Squares". Parents were excited to check it out over break and play games with their children

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Catch the Wave-Post Secondary Experience March 4, Vermillion; March 24, Mitchell; March 31, Spearfish; April 1, Aberdeen; April 16, Watertown

State Special Education Conference March 10-11 @ Sioux Falls, SD

SDFBVI "Dinner in Dark" April 16 @ Aberdeen, SD

Dakotas AER Conference May 13-15 @ Grand Forks, ND

Youth in Leadership Forum (www.tslp.org/YLF.htm) June 7-11 @ Aberdeen, SD

Family Weekend June 13-14@ Sioux Falls, SD

Transition Week for Students with Visual Impairments June 14-18 @ SD Rehab. Center, Sioux Falls, SD

NAPVI National Family Conference July 10-12 @ Chicago, IL

SDSBVI Summer Program (http://sdsbvi.northern.edu) Aberdeen. SD: June 7-26 Julv 12-31

SDSBVI Annual Family Swim Party July 31 @ Aquatics Center Aberdeen, SD

SDSB-SDSVH-SDSBVI All-School Reunion August 14-16 @ Aberdeen, SD

Everyday Calendar Activities

Children who are visually impaired need to have more hands-on experiences to help them learn. Below are some suggested activities that are simple, inexpensive, and don't take much time. Activities are taken from everyday events in our lives that are easy to access.

February

- Share a cake with neighbors.
- $\mathop{\mathrm{Ge}}\nolimits$ Make a tent out of blankets and chairs. What can you pretend while you're in it?
- Server Blow-dry your hair after a bath.
- $\mathop{\mathrm{Ge}}\nolimits$ Find someone who is remodeling their house. Visit and help them.

<u>March</u>

- Ger Make gelatin. Watch it go from a powder to a liquid to a solid.
- $\mathop{\mathrm{Ge}}\nolimits$ Pay the bills. Help put things in the envelope and lick the flap and put on stamps.
- $\operatorname{Ger}\nolimits Give a toy away and get a new one.$
- Ger Buy gum from a machine.

<u>April</u>

- Ger What is a garbage disposal? What does it do?
- Ger Boil water in a tea kettle that whistles.
- Ger Freeze some water in a tray. Look at the ice crystals.
- Grush your hair. Clean out the brush.

<u>May</u>

- Geor Choose a special drawer. Put your own things in it.
- Ger Look at plants coming up in the garden. Perhaps plant some beans.
- Ger Look at kitchen or dresser drawers. What is in them?
- $\operatorname{{\scriptstyle G\! \ opt}}$ Compare summer clothing and winter clothing. Put the winter clothes away.

For more ideas or to borrow the complete set of Everyday Activities Calendar, contact your Outreach Vision Consultant. Everyday Activities Calendar is available from APH (American Printing House).

Video View

"From Russia With Love and Care for Children with Sensory Impairment and Challenging Behaviors: Demonstration of an Intervention Model" Authors: Dr. Jan Van Dijk, Dr. Catherine Nelson, Dr. Ton Van Der Meer Produced by The American Printing House for the Blind, Inc. (APH)

This CD-ROM contains an introductory course in Positive Behavioral Support and outlines the basic principles involved in assessing challenging behaviors of

children with multiple disabilities. Children from the Children's House for Deaf-blind in Russia are featured in this CD. The introductory course consists of questions to increase your knowledge base, with video clips of the children to support this information. Then the next section of the CD is actually working through the behaviors with each child. There is an initial assessment, then there are targeted behaviors that are noted. A hypothesis is formulated, and interventions are implemented. There are videos along the way of this whole process, making the progress of each child that much more meaningful. If you would like to view this video, just ask to borrow it from your Outreach Vision Consultant.











Transition Tales

by Karen Gerety, Transition Specialist



Transition Week 2015

The South Dakota Rehabilitation Center for the Blind will host Transition Week June 14-18, 2015 in Sioux Falls. In the last newsletter, I shared a resource called CareerConnect[®], a website hosted by the American Foundation for the Blind that gives students an insight into career choices available to people with vision loss. We are so excited to have Joe Strechay, Program Manager for CareerConnect[®] as one of the speakers for Transition Week this year! Mr. Strechay has experience in all areas of transition planning: employment, postsecondary preparation, vocational rehabilitation, and orientation and mobility, to name a few. You can check out Strechay's profile at this address:

<u>http://www.afb.org/info/about-us/press-room/experts-guide/employment-experts/joe-strechay/12345</u>. I have visited with many of you about Transition Week as an opportunity for your students, and hope most of them can join us this year. I will be in touch directly with you very soon with more details.

Transition Resources

This time I would like to highlight Project Skills, described on the Department of Human Services website: "Project Skills is a paid work experience program for high school students with disabilities in South Dakota. The program is a cooperative arrangement between the state vocational rehabilitation agencies and the local school districts." (<u>http://dhs.sd.gov/</u> <u>drs/projectskills/default.aspx</u>) In order to participate in Project Skills, a student must be 16 years of age and eligible for services via Service for the Blind and Visually Impaired (or Vocational Rehabilitation for students with other disabilities.) After those criteria are met, the student receives assistance from someone at his/her school in searching for a suitable job site. The employer at the site only has to provide general liability insurance and the state takes care of the rest. This is an amazing, substantial program that is providing students all over South Dakota with work experiences that will help put them on par with their peers. Like many of us who worked when we were teens, students doing Project Skills learn very important "soft skills" on the job - punctuality, attendance, how to negotiate issues with co-workers and supervisors, social skills, and many others - in addition to learning practical work skills that will carry them into their

next job. Good stuff! You can learn about Project Skills by following the link above. Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

My Own Transition

One last note: I am now doing outreach from a new location. My own transition plan for 2015 included a move to Sioux Falls, where I will work out of an office at the SD School for the Deaf. You can still reach me easily via email: <u>karen.gerety@sdsbvi.northern.edu</u> or by cell phone: 605-216-7965.



Quilts of Valor

The School hosted a Veterans' Day Program to honor those who have served in the Military. The program included a Presentation of Colors by the Aberdeen C.C. Croal VFW 17 Ladies Auxiliary. **Justin Scepaniak** (U.S. Marines, U.S. Army Reserve) was the guest speaker; readings were shared by students **Jordan Harkless**, **Jordan Houseman**, and **Blaine**

Jemming, and students and staff also sang patriotic songs.

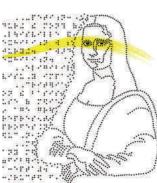
Quilts of Valor, under the direction of Jayne Reuer, were presented to six veterans. The quilts are our way to say "thank you" for their service, sacrifice, and valor for our country. Recipients were: **TJ Anderson** (U.S. Army, US Army Reserve), **Jack Heyd** (U.S. Army), **Vern Rexinger** (U.S. Army), **Dave Scepaniak** (U.S. Army), **John Fletcher Quinn** (U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Reserve), and **Chad Vetter** (U.S. Army Reserve).



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InSights Art Competition!

The deadlines for the 24th Annual Juried Art Competition and Exhibition for Artists Who Are Visually Impaired or Blind have been established. APH invites visually impaired and blind artists of all ages to submit artwork to APH InSights 2015! This art competition and exhibition is exclusively for blind and visually impaired artists and draws entries from across the U.S. and around the world. Last year we received 315 entries from across the U.S. Again this year, there are two deadlines: Student Preschool through High School must submit a completed entry form along with the original artwork (no digital images) by March 24, 2015. Adults must submit their complete entry package by April 1, 2015. Each artist may submit only one entry.



The competition is open to any person who meets the following definition of blindness: corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye or a visual field limited to 20 degrees or less. This includes those who function at the definition of blindness (FDB), listed above, due to brain injury or dysfunction. There is no limit on the subject or the type of materials that can be used, but the artwork must be original in concept and execution and be completed by the artist, with minimal assistance from others. Updated entry forms and rules will be posted on the website in February. Contact Roberta Williams by email with questions: rwllliams@aph.org.

Match Sticks Match Sticks

APH Educational Materials

APH Educational Materials

Match Sticks

This is a game for players with low vision, including those with
Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI). It was designed to provide
children in the CVI Phases II and III with a matching activity that
is fun and entertaining and that helps develop vision skills.

E braille name labels for the color of an item, laundry instructions, or other
information about clothing. The label stays clean, readable and attached
through washing, drying, and ironing! It can be removed before putting on the garment and
attached later. Great for those who are in sports and school activities, attending camp. or for



Sense of Science

Sense of S

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ASTRONOMY



Create braille name labels for the color of an item, laundry instructions, or other

reattached later. Great for those who are in sports and school activities, attending camp, or for anyone who has to identify clothing that becomes mixed with clothing belonging to others.



Sense of Science

Sense of Science is a unique series designed to make the world of science accessible, understandable, and enjoyable. There are 3 different modules: Plants. Animals and Astronomy. Each kit has a set of colorful, raised-line overlays to be used with a light box or as stand-alone items. An accompanying guidebook

suggests activities using the overlays and supplemental materials to enhance and extend the learning experience.

These products are available from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) for purchase and can also be borrowed from your area Outreach Vision Consultant. For more information on these products or other APH

products, look on their website at http://www.aph.org or contact an Outreach Vision Consultant.

Exploring the Expanded Core Curriculum: Daily Living Skills - Pet Care

Many homes (and some classrooms) have a pet, or maybe even more than one. For your child to learn how to care for a pet is an important independent living skill to learn. It teaches him/her to take care of the needs of someone besides themselves and learn how to organize for that responsibility. First, it is essential for the child to learn the basic skill of giving food and water to the pet: knowing how much and how often. Physical care is also important: learning how to bath the pet, as well as treat it for fleas and ticks is vital. Being able to groom the pet and make sure the pet is wearing a collar with owner information on it



is necessary. "Bath rooming" also needs to be addressed: whether taking the pet outside at regular times and/or setting up a litter box and determining a regular cleaning schedule.

Playing with the pet is important. Allow the student to choose pet toys so he/she will be interested in playing with the pet. And helping your pet exercise is significant: whether that means taking walks, playing with toys, or just chasing each other around. You may need to set up a schedule for the steps involved with the pet's care, likely a weekly or monthly schedule since some tasks are not done every day. With a pet that is well taken care of, all those involved will enjoy their time together and love each other and love being with each other!

Books Featuring Characters with Visual Impairments Rainbow Joe and Me by Maria Diaz Strom





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Rescue Pup by Jean Little

Shakespeare is a Seeing Eye puppy. Before the time comes for him to train with a blind person, he must spend six months with a girl who has never learned to love. He does all he can to teach her, but there are some dangerous situations and by the end of the story he has earned the title Rescue Pup. Grade Level: 3-5

From Charlie's Point of View By Richard Scrimger

Charlie Fairmile's dad has been accused of being the Stocking Bandit, a bank robber. Charlie knows he is innocent, but the police say they have witnesses. Charlie has to find the real criminal and fast. With the help of his best friends, Charlie sets out to solve the mystery. But can a blind teenager unravel the crime and save his father? Grade Level: 4-7



The state

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Let's Start Baking

By Amy Scepaniak, Outreach Vision Consultant

Often times it only takes a little creativity to make a great product. This summer Ken Doctor, a Rehab Teacher at the 🐨 North Dakota School for the Blind, presented on "daily living skills" during our Family Weekend. One of the items he 🎡 demonstrated was child-sized oven mitts. Everyone thought this was a great idea because most oven mitts are large 🎡



and made for adult hands. One day when I was visiting one of my $\hat{\mathbb{T}}$ students at Brentwood Colony near Faulkton, SD I shared the idea of 🐣 making child-sized oven mitts with Judith Wurtz and her daughter Leanne, who is visually impaired from albinism, knowing that both are very crafty people and may be interested in trying to make them. A huge thanks also goes out to Michelle Latt from Faulkton who graciously donated the materials to make the oven mitts.

Pictured are SDSBVI students showing off the newly designed oven mitts which were recently delivered to our school by Judith and Leanne.



Incidental Learning or "Learning Outside of the Box"

Incidental learning is learning that takes place without any structure, objective, or intent to learn, and is usually done by visually observing. This method of learning is very difficult for children who are blind or visually impaired, and concepts need to be taught through hands-on learning experiences.

A really fun hands-on experience to do with students is to explore various kinds of **uniforms** that a are out in the community. You will want to explore the uniform pieces from head to toe. Many uniforms include a hat or headgear of some sort. Then there is the shirt, coat, and pants of the uniform. And the shoes and/or boots are really fun to investigate! Also, some uniforms may have additional "accessories" (stethoscope, mailbag). If possible, allow your student to try on as much of the **uniform** as possible, even if it is too big; letting them try on the **uniform** is an unforgettable § experience.

Examples of uniforms include:

- Ger Doctor
- Ge∕ Nurse

- Get Sports Teams
- Ger Police Officer
- Ger Boy Scout or Girl Scout
- G Mail Delivery Personnel
- Ge ∕ Fire Fighter Ger Waiter or Waitress G ← Cheerleader *G*√Clergy Ge∕ Military



And don't forget to take pictures with the student wearing the **uniforms**...even make an experience And don't forget to take pictures with the student wearing me <u>uniform</u>. It will be something they book of the pictures and statements from the student about each <u>uniform</u>. It will be something they are used by the something the second bow these uniforms are used by the second bow the second bow these uniforms are used by the second bow the second won't forget! Students can take field trips to see where and how these uniforms are used by the professionals. Storybooks and activities can also be implemented into the classroom or at home.

- Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS), the BEP conducted a four-month pilot where NLS patrons could pre-order a currency reader ising and gauge demand for currency readers. Approximately and gauge demand for currency readers.
- 2015. Individuals interested in receiving a currency reader through the U.S. Currency Reader Program must submit an application, signed by a competent authority who can certify eligibility.

Contact Us: For additional questions or comments about the U.S. Currency Reader Program, you may call (844) 815-9388 toll-free or email meaningful.access@bep.gov.



Save the Dates

BOOK ORDERS

January 15, 2015 was the deadline for book orders through the South Dakota Braille & Talking Book Program (SDB&TB) for books needed in the fall 2015, but book orders shall continue to be accepted passed this due date, but there will not be a guaranteed delivery of finished textbooks by the first day of classes. For spring 2016 books, the deadline is July 15th. Books already produced and available to be borrowed from the SDB&TB or another state library will be sent free of charge on a first requested/first loaned basis. The cost of books needing to be produced will be the school district's responsibility. Please make sure all your paperwork is complete when placing an order. You can access the forms at the website: http://library.sd.gov/BTB/publications/APP/FRM-Textbook.pdf. If you have any questions please contact Lynda Lowin, Educational Materials Coordinator at SDB&TB at 1-800-423-6665 or email her at lynda.lowin@state.sd.us.

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE March 10-11, 2015 Sioux Falls, SD

Please join us at this year's State Special Education Conference at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel. Your SDSBVI Outreach Vision Consultants will present the morning of March 11th. The presentation is titled "Who You Gonna Call". Various websites will actually be accessed to show relevant and useful information for those working with students with visual impairments. We hope to see you there!

FAMILY WEEKEND! June 13 and 14, 2015 in Sioux Falls, SD

The SDSBVI Outreach Vision Consultants and staff with support from the SD Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired are once again planning a weekend of fun, learning, and sharing for families of children who are blind or visually impaired in the state of South Dakota. We are excited this year to bring Joe Strechay from the American Foundation for the Blind to South Dakota to join us for the weekend. Joe is the



Program Coordinator of the American Foundation for the Blind's CareerConnect® and brings his expertise in Employment, Vocational Rehabilitation, Transition, Post-Secondary Preparation, Education, Mentoring, and Orientation and Mobility. Watch for more information on the SDSBVI's website, Facebook, or contact your Outreach Vision Consultant.

🛱 Did you know......

Ň Staci Mannella was the youngest member of the US Paralympic Team at the 2014 Sochi Ŵ Winter Olympics. Born with achromatopsia, Staci's vision is limited to objects about three feet away, and even those objects aren't seen clearly. While her color-blindness Ŵ isn't as pronounced as other achromats, she is quite photophobic, squinting and blinking in the sunlight. This, however doesn't stop her conquering the world of adaptive alpine skiing.





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Her career thus far includes four national championship titles, a World Cup gold medal, and the opportunity to represent the United States in the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Games. Her next goal? This rising star intends to drive forward in hopes of competing and medaling in the 2018 Peoyong Chang Paralympic Games.

To learn more about Staci and Paralympics check out the following links: http://stacimannella.com/, www.paralympic.org/, or follow Staci on Facebook

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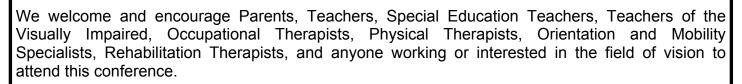


2015 Dakotas AER Conference - "Embracing Change"

The 2015 AER Conference will be held May 13-15, 2015 at the North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind in Grand Forks, ND. This conference features topics of interest to parents and professionals in the field of vision and other related disciplines.

Featured Presenters and Topics Include:

- Ger Dona Sauerburger Orientation and Mobility Specialist from Maryland
- Maria Delgado American Printing House for the Blind, Kentucky
- & Assessments, Technology, Social Skills, Orientation & Mobility, and Technology
- G√Unified English Braille (UEB)
- Ger Trends in Eye Care and Dual Sensory Loss



A block of rooms has been set aside at the Howard Johnson Inn, call (701) 772-7131 to make reservation under NDVS/SB by April 10, 2015. Registration and Conference information are available at www.ndvisionservices.com or contact Paul H. Olson at (701)795-2700 or polson@nd.gov for more information.

Football Fun Marshmallow Treats: Just in Time for the Super Bowl Score a touchdown with your little football player with these traditional treats with a twist!

What you need

- Gereal Relations Kellogg'S COCOA KRISPIES® Cereal Ger 3 TBSP butter or margarine Ger 1 package regular marshmallows (10 oz., about 40)
- Ger White decorator's icing in a tube
- Ge∕ Wax paper
- Ger 13 x 9 cookie sheet

Directions:

Melt butter in a large saucepan over low heat and then add marshmallows and stir until melted. Remove from heat. Add KELLOGG'S COCOA KRISPIES® Cereal and stir. Allow mixture to completely cool. Cover 13 x 9 cookie sheet with wax paper. After cereal mixture is completely cooled, take a fistful of the mixture and mold into the shape of a football. Place on wax paper. Repeat step until all the mixture is gone. Using white decorator's frosting, decorate the treat like a football. Place treats into airtight container until you are ready to serve. Makes 20 - 24

If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.

By Napoleon Hill



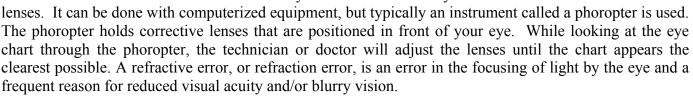


FOCUS ON THE EYE REFRACTION AND REFRACTIVE ERRORS

(Myopia / Hyperopia / Astigmatism / Anisometropia)

DESCRIPTION:

Refraction is a vision test that determines your best visual acuity with corrective



<u>TYPES OF REFRACTIVE ERRORS</u>: There are 4 basic types of refractive errors:

- *CMyopia (nearsightedness)* This is a condition where the distance vision is blurred, but a child can usually see well for reading or other near tasks. This occurs most often in school-age children, although occasionally younger children can be affected. The prescription for glasses will indicate a minus sign before the prescription (for example: -2.00).
- Hyperopia (farsightedness) Most children are farsighted early in life (this is normal!) and need no treatment for this because they can use their own focusing muscles to provide clear vision for both distance and near vision. Glasses are rarely needed if the far-sightedness is less than +1.00 or even +2.00. When an excessive amount of farsightedness is present, the focusing muscles may not be able to keep the vision clear. As a result of this, problems such as crossing of the eyes, blurred vision, or discomfort may develop. A prescription for hyperopia will be preceded by a plus sign.
- Astigmatism Astigmatism is caused by a difference in the surface curve of the eye. Instead of being shaped like a perfect sphere (like a basketball), the eye is shaped with a greater curve in one axis (like a football). If a child has a significant astigmatism, fine details may look blurred or distorted. Glasses that are prescribed for astigmatism have greater strength in one direction of the lens than in the opposite direction.
- *G*-*Anisometropia* Some children may have a different prescription in each eye. This can create a condition called amblyopia, where the vision in one eye does not develop normally. Glasses (and sometimes patching) are needed to insure that each eye can see clearly.

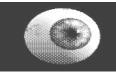
<u>CAUSES</u>: Refractive errors are thought to occur due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Trauma or some ocular disorders may also cause refractive errors.

TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT: How refractive errors are treated or managed depends upon the amount and severity of the condition. Those who possess mild amounts of refractive error may elect to leave the condition uncorrected, particularly if it does not interfere with everyday functioning. For those who have greater amounts of refractive error, glasses, contact lenses, refractive surgery, or a combination of the preceding three, may be used.

TESTING A CHILD FOR GLASSES: By doing a complete eye examination, an ophthalmologist or optometrist can detect the need for glasses, even in very young children. Typically, the pupils are dilated in order to relax the focusing muscles, so that an accurate measurement of the error of refraction can be obtained. By using a special instrument, called a retinoscope, your eye doctor can arrive at an accurate prescription. The eye care specialist will then advise parents whether the measured error of refraction is appropriate or expected for his or her age, whether there is a need for glasses, or whether the condition can just be monitored.

SOURCES

www.aapos.org www.mayoclinic.com www.aoa.org www.allaboutvision.com/eye-exam/refraction.htm www.preventblindness.org



Winter Story Box

All You Need for a Snowman by Alice Schertle

Are you looking for a fun way to brighten up the cold winter days? <u>All You</u> <u>Need for a Snowman</u> (print and braille) by Alice Schertle and illustrated by Barbara Lavallee is a wonderful book to read aloud and it lends itself especially well to being made into a Story Box. For those of you who don't know, Story Boxes are a way to bring books to life for young children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities. Instead of relying on illustrations to support the story, Story Boxes use real objects and tangible symbols to help to make the meaning clear. As the story is told, children can feel the items described in the story and also reinforce other concepts such as counting and size.

Materials:

- Items mentioned in the story (carrot, bottle caps, a scarf, mittens, walnuts, and a fanny pack)
- A box in which to store the items
- Ser Accessible label for the Story Box (with braille, large print, or a tactile symbol)

Procedure:

- Gather all items needed for the story and create a Story Box .
- Read the story aloud and invite each child to examine the item mentioned in the story as it appears.
- Ask children to take turns reaching into the Story Box and finding the item that is mentioned.
- Ger Talk about how to use each item.
- Make a snowman out of play dough or clay and practice making balls of different sizes.

Variations:

- Make snowflakes out of clay, paper, or flannel and count them.
- Bring in some real snow, if possible, and make it into snowballs of different sizes.

Core Standards

Literature:

- RL.K.1 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- RL.K.2 With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.
- RL.K.4 Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.

For more ideas: check out the following link:

http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/suggested-list-story-boxes-young-children

Follow SDSBVI <u>Website</u>: http://sdsbvi.northern.edu <u>Pinterest</u>: http://pinterest.com/sdsbvi <u>Facebook</u>: SD School for Blind and Visually Impaired

Shaving Cream & Cornstarch Snowman

Materials:

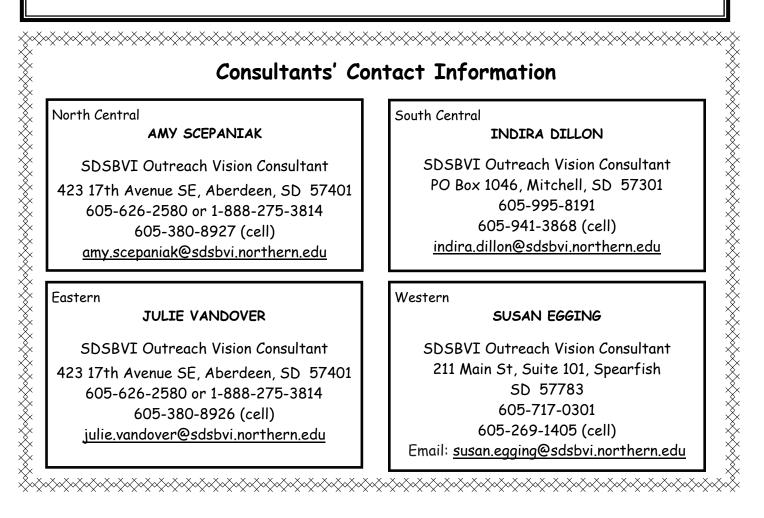
- Ge∕ Shaving cream
- GCCornstarch
- Service Food coloring (optional)
- Ge Bowls
- G√Small twigs
- Ger Plastic wiggly eyes
- Ger Small discs or buttons
- Ger Felt or paper for mouth

Directions:



- Step 1: Just pour any amount of cornstarch and squirt about the same amount of shaving cream on top of the cornstarch. You can add more of either if you need to as you mix it until you get a moldable dough. Then just mix it by squishing it with your fingers! You can also add some food coloring if you want to add some color.
- Step 2: Roll 3 different sized balls and stack with the smallest on top and the largest on the bottom.
- Step 3: Add eyes, nose, mouth, arms, and buttons.

<u>More Ideas</u>: See more at: <u>http://earlylearning.momtrusted.com/2013/05/foam-dough-shaving-cream-corn-starch/#sthash.fR6DMfx3.dpuf</u>





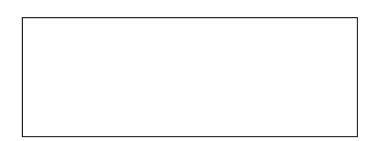
and Visually Impaired

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Pass it on after vou are done reading it!

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