# Study of braille fluency, in Australia & New Zealand

# Resources created since research.

# Tricia d’Apice

1. Map of Australia and New Zealand. Cities Auckland, Christchurch, Brisbane, Cairns, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. 73 Braille and Dual Media students

## Primary Student Results

Graph of 30 braille reading students ORF scores compared to sighted ORF norms.

Only 1 student exceeded grade level. All others were significantly lower than norms.

## Secondary Student Results

A pie graph indicating that 82% of secondary students did not fir into the age related norms so couldn't score. 9% were 2-4 years behind age norms norms 9% were 1-2 years behind age norms

## Variables considered

Eye Condition

One handed or two handed reader

Curriculum reading media: Braille, Print, Audio

Length of time learning Braille

Braille only or Dual Media

Reading for leisure?

Reading Braille for leisure?

## Research created more Questions than Answers

It is generally thought that reading fluency is directly related to comprehension …

BUT our students are doing well in school!!

Is this statement the case with Braille reading students?

## Vision Support Teachers Questionnaire N = 40

One page questionnaire, For VST, asking what mainstream materials they use, Braille specific materials, teaching strategies and braille Mnemonics

## Questionnaire outcomes, Experience materials

The survey of vision support teachers’ emphasised the importance of personalised handmade experience books and materials, to assist the students to gain meaningful information through literacy.

Content of books is based on the child’s rich life experiences.

## Fun and games was the second most valuable strategy

Interesting topics relating to the child were found on the internet, and then converted to Braille, including; Word searches, interesting facts, games, jokes, recipes. Other activities include:

Go Fish

Old man

Flip books

Language Master

Posting boxes

Fishing game

Memory

Board games

Matching

Book Bags / Sacks

## 10. Braille Specific resources used by vision support teachers.

Ozzie Dots

I do like it

Patterns

Mangold Braille Reading Program

Spot the Dot

Braille in Easy Steps

Abi Books

UEB Practice Sentences, Roberta Becker

Ann and Friends, beginning Braille Readers

Ready to read, PM (NZ curriculum)

Braille for Infants (RNIB)

Take Off Braille Reading Series 1,2,3, & 4,

Ladybird Graduated Braille Readers

Alphabet book with tactile pictures

## What has happened since this research?

Anecdotal observations

1. The majority of reading accuracy errors were Braille reversals

2. Parents invest a great deal of time and money in their sighted children’s literacy …

… they may not have the resources or knowledge to be able to do the same with their blind children

## Resources made for parents since research.

The dapdots website has

54 books, taking you step by step through the UEB code

6 Tactile graphic kits

16 3D printing files

6 checklists

3 reversal videos on YouTube

## Reversals, 3D printed

Magic Square (f,d,h,j)

Slippery dip (e, i)

Christmas Tree (st, ch)

You Tube Videos

Reversal Work book

## Reversal work book

All in Braille

i points to the sky, e points to the earth

1st line all i times 9

2nd line all i except one e

3rd line all i except 2 e

4th line all i except 3 e

5th line all i except 4 e

Other pages

2. fdhj

3. and, y

4. n, ed

5. the, z

6. p, th

7. st, ch

8. m, sh

9. with, of

## Alphabet books

Front Cover

ABC food picture of an apple

ABC for Kids

ABC Transport

ABC Music

ABC Food

ABC Games

## 16. Standalone Wordsigns:

Parent pages

Parent page, inside cover

Underline indicates a Braille contraction

top line uncontracted I like

2nd line I like contracted

3rd line graphic label milk

4th line I like milk contracted

1. Back page.

alphabet in Braille and ink Braille, Stand alone alphabet wordsigns written in print.

## Page of a book

Graphic of a chocolate bar, text Top line do you like chocolate uncontracted

Bottom line do you like chocolate contracted

## Group Signs

graphic of cow and sow, Braille text, go slow when you mow between the cow and the sow.

## Initial Wordsigns

Upon my word whose are these and those?

From UEB Australian Training Manual 2016 pg 95

Graphic of cranky school teacher with a pile of books on one side and a pile of shoes on the other.

## All the UEB literary code files are included on the website, including;

Lower Contractions

Final Contractions

Shortforms

Link to video footage of reversal mnemonics

3D printing files of reversals

## Other useful resources include;

Tactile graphics kits

Including Map Reading. Graphic of the Solar System to scale. Human Biology showing a graphic of the skeleton.

Kits available;

* Map reading
* Human Biology
* Concept development
* Sports
* Orientation and Mobility
* How Many?

## Braille Reference Books

Includes a print and braille copy of the UEB code

## Checklists

Including a UEB learning progression checklist and a Learning Media Profile.

## Thank you

All files available for $10 Australian, for the entire bundle. (Make them yourself!) £5.08 €5.98

dApdots.ridbc.org.au