

Virtual Braille Instruction Reflection and Resources

Reflection: Virtual braille experiences shared by Angie, a parent representative on the BVI Advisory Committee regarding her daughter Ruby.



Virtual braille instruction definitely had its challenges, but there were also a lot of positives! Ruby worked on braille with her TBVI virtually for 30 minutes, 5 days a week during distance learning. Her TBVI was able to learn more about Ruby's home life, which helped her to create lessons that were relevant and interesting to Ruby. She also learned more about routines and tasks that Ruby performs at home, enabling her to incorporate pertinent ADLs into braille lessons. Her TBVI and I agree that having regular communication with me opened up a lot of new opportunities for both of us to work more effectively with Ruby.

Our braille work station:

We used a computer with a camera and an iPhone/iPad arm/holder to position a second camera over the braille so her TBVI could see both her face and her braille. We used this [tablet holder](#). We also used a silicone craft mat to keep her paper in place.

Incorporating ADLs into lessons: It was amazing to be able to combine our goals for literacy and life skills right in our own home. Some ways we did this included reading and making recipes, labeling measuring spoons/cups/food items, writing out the steps for a household task, pretending to shop for items on a braille shopping list, folding money and identifying it, and practicing paying for items.

Games: At least once a week, Ruby played a game virtually with her TBVI that incorporated new words as well as tactile dice and manipulatives. Learning disguised as FUN! Some games they played were "go fish" for braille cards, scavenger hunt, memory and a board game with braille words on each square (the [Paths to Literacy](#) website has been a great resource for us).

Writing stories together: Ruby dictated a story to her TBVI, her TBVI brailled it, sent it to us and they read it together in future lessons. She was/is always very excited to read the stories she wrote.

Word review: One day a week was dedicated to reviewing words and taking data to see where focus needed to be in the coming week. As a parent, I really appreciated knowing the words that Ruby was learning so I could assist with work at home even when we are not in virtual instruction.

Communication: Our TBVI did a great job of being open minded, understanding and working with us to maximize Ruby's learning during virtual instruction. This open communication created a lot of trust and camaraderie that made the challenging times a lot easier. She gave Ruby lots of choice over what she wanted to learn and made it fun, which led to more compliance on Ruby's part.

Virtual Braille Resources

- CA School for the Blind [Virtual Resources for Parents](#)
- [Colorado Department of Education Remote Instruction Resources](#)
- [CVI: Considerations for Distance Learning](#)
- [eBraille](#) Cosmo and Bert
- Educational Services -Specialized Instruction in Technology/Braille/Nemeth and other Blind skills for Blind and Visually Impaired: [TechVision](#), Dr. Denise Robinson
- [Google Docs for Tracking Braille Progress](#)
- [IPEVO](#) is a small document camera that makes access to watching the student work easier
- LVI Tablet Stand [Phone and tablet stand](#)
- Michigan Low Incidence Outreach [COVID-19 Resources and Tip Sheets](#)
- [National Federation of the Blind \(NFB\) distance education resources](#)
- [ObjectiveEd](#) Braille Sheets and Braille AI Tutor, uses iPad and refreshable braille output devices
- [Perkins eLearning: Preparing for Virtual Instruction](#)
- [Paths to Literacy: Teaching Students Through Virtual Services](#)
- Paths to Literacy: [Teaching a Totally Blind Braille Learner Virtually: What worked and what didn't](#)
- Portable adjustable laptop table [Amazon](#)
- Teaching Students with Visual Impairment: [Virtual Instruction](#)
- [Tips for Making Group Zoom Lessons More CVI Friendly](#)
- [Tips for Providing Remote Video Instruction for Students with CVI](#)
- [Tips for Promoting Your Child's Braille Literacy Skills](#)