Low Vision Conference:
Increasing Low Vision Skills for Students at the Practical Academic Level
Anything You Can Do, WE Can Do Better
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Presented by
Jodie Eakin, COMS, Deer Park ISD
jeakin@dpisd.onmicrosoft.com
Stacey Hoffman, TVI, Deer Park ISD
stacey.hoffman@rocketmail.com

Developed for
Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Outreach Programs
“Anything I Can Do, WE Can Do Better:
A Discussion in O&M/VI Collaboration”
Jodie Eakin, COMS
Stacey Hoffman, CTVI

Purpose of Session
- Gain insight into the benefits of O&M/VI collaborative lessons
- Benefits of collaboration for students with Multiple Impairments
- Benefits of utilizing experience books
- Writing/carrying out collaborative IEPs

History

Collaboration Begins!

TSBVI
- Website (“Essential Literacy Experiences for Visually Impaired Children” Eva Lavigne article)
- Mentor Center

Experience Books
“For reading to be meaningful, the child must be able to relate what he or she reads to previous experiences.” (Hall and Rodabaugh, 1979)

*Fully sighted children have access to visual media and visual materials, and incidentally learn about the world around them.

*Children with visual impairments need to be taught systematically utilizing direct hands-on practice with basic concepts and everyday activities.
Global Experiences (Koenig & Farrenkopf, 1997)

1. Experiences typically gained through daily activities:
   - Friends
   - Community
   - Behaviors
   - Family
   - Eating
   - Etc.

Global Experiences (cont.)

2. Experiences gained through instruction:
   - Content areas
   - Concepts (time, colors, etc.)

Collaboration Continues…

Region 4 Service Center

Figure 2 Clip art showing a figure jumping up and down on a desert island with the S.O.S spelled out in the sand.

Collaboration Continues…

Classroom Teacher

Figure 3 Clip art image of a student's desk and chair.
Collaboration Continues…

- O&M Evaluation
- Determination of Services
- Development of IEPs
- Consultation with PT/OT
- O&M Scavenger Hunt

Figure 4 Clip art image of a young man carrying a book and traveling with a cane.

New Year, New View

- Determined the need to create and utilize Experience Books for collaborative VI/O&M lessons
- Developed a consistent routine

Figure 5 Photograph of a stop-sign.

Figure 6 Clip art image of a book.
New Year, New View

O&M Concepts Incorporated

- Landmarks
- Basic Concepts (up, down, top, bottom, etc.)
- Survival Signs
- Left v. Right
- Chin up for better viewing
- Hallway travel
- Basic Protective Techniques
- Scanning and spotting
- Sensory issues (toleration of jacket, lanyard, etc.)
- Video (spotting)

Figure 7 Image of a folded folding cane.

New Year, New View

VI Concepts Incorporated

- Book concepts
- Visual Efficiency skills
- Integrated academic goals (i.e., colors, numbers, etc.)
- Video (reading)

Figure 8 Photo of a man with a dirty face holding a trophy and pumping his fist.
WHAT NOW?

Figure 9 Clip art image of a pair of glasses with "?" showing in each of the lens.

Collaboration Continues…

- Region 4 Service Center
- Parent/Student for CBI (Community Based Instruction) introduction
- Classroom Teacher, OT/PT, Speech Therapist

Figure 10 Photograph of four different hands gripping each other at the wrist.

Collaboration Prior To Trip (developed by Dr. Vicki Mitchell)

- Lesson Plan
- Instruction prior
- Must be related to the IEP
- Generalize classroom instruction
- Collaborate with parent(s)
- Incorporate community settings that the parents access (HEB v. Kroger)
- Define purpose of the trip with the team
- Assign roles while in the community

Snapshot of Lesson Planning

- Review IEPs
- Plan the next skill(s) together
- Outline the book
- Scout location
- Take pictures of Woody
- JM “writes the story” from the pictures
- Make the book (laminating, binding, etc.)
Snapshot of a Lesson

- Introduction (ready JM for lesson)
- Read the experience book
- Incorporate O&M/VI skills
- Execute a consistent routine
- Collaborate and report on progress

Figure 11 A young boy with blond hair.

Figure 12 A young girl with glasses taken outdoors.

Figure 13 A young woman with dark hair and a smile taken indoors.

Figure 14 A teenaged girl wearing glasses faces the camera and smiles.
Looking Ahead

Figure 15 Clip art figure of a man in a suit looking through a telescope from the top of a mountain.

Notes:
Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Outreach Programs

Figure 16 TSBVI logo.

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Figure 17 IDEAs that Work logo and OSEP disclaimer.