**The BEE: Early Literacy and Movement for Young Blind Children**

**NFB Braille Reading Pals Club & NFB Early Explorers**

**December, 2016**

**What’s Buzzing with the National Federation of the Blind?**

**Once again, Santa has enlisted the help of his elves from the National Federation of the Blind. Blind children will be able to read their very own letters from Santa in Braille. Not only do the children get a Braille letter from Santa, but they also receive a recipe, song lyrics, and other activities that they can complete over the holiday break. Moms and Dads, help your child get his/her Braille letter from Santa by visiting** [**https://nfb.org/santa-letters**](https://nfb.org/santa-letters)**.**

**Literacy Hints from the Hive**

**Winter is upon us, and to prevent frost bite on those fingers and toes, eyeballs and nose, keep them warm with lots and lots of Braille reading. Here’s a fun favorite of mine to get in the holiday spirit while practicing Braille. Sing those winter blues away by reading some of your favorite song lyrics. Work as a team with your Braille reader to look up the lyrics, Braille them on red card stock, and warm up your pipes for a fun festive round of Christmas carols.**

**Travel Tales**

**One of my favorite things to do ever since I was a small child was to walk those beautifully lit neighborhoods during December. Each town surely has their own version of Christmas Tree Lane. Make it a magical experience for your entire family. Instead of just cruising through in the comfort of your heated vehicle, park the car, bundle up, pack a thermos of hot chocolate, and sing those Christmas favorites your child has been practicing in Braille. Just driving past doesn’t let you savor the yummy smells of the season from cookies baking in one home, to a delicious roast in the oven in another. Best of all, this is another chance for your child to show off his/her cane all decked out with holiday decor. This year, my daughter and I are both wrapping our canes with red tape to look like candy canes. Amazon has a huge assortment of decorative duct tape, ribbons, jingle bells, and so much more fun DIY cane-tastic flare.**

**A Taste of Honey**

**“Do you want to build a snowman? Come on let’s go and play. I never see you anymore. Come out the door. It’s like you’ve gone away. We used to be best buddies, and now we’re not. I wish you would tell me why… Do you want to build a snowman? It doesn’t have to be a snowman. Okay bye.”**

**If Christmas carols aren’t your thing, above are the beginning lyrics to Disney’s Frozen, “Do You Want to Build a Snowman?”**

**How about building your own snowman from the comfort of your kitchen with your blind child?**

**You will need:**

**3 large marshmallows for the snowman body.**

**2 pretzel sticks for the snowman arms.**

**1 candy corn nose, or any other nose like candy item.**

**And mini chocolate chips for the eyes, and buttons.**

**If you want to get even more creative, you can add a licorice scarf, and a Hershey Kiss hat.**

**Assembly is easy, it only requires lots of licking, squishing, and poking of marshmallows with pretzel sticks and candy corn.**

**Happy Building!**

**Buzzes and Tweets**

Follow [@NFB\_Voice](https://nfb.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=3730&qid=568205) on Twitter to get news and information from the NFB.

Follow [@BrailleLiteracy](https://nfb.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=3731&qid=568205) on Twitter to get timely Braille news, information, and tips.

Like the National Federation of the Blind on Facebook to stay current with all of the new things happening at the NFB Jernigan Institute.

**Books for Busy Bees**

If you are looking to grow your child’s Braille library, check out the [Braille storybook resources webpage](https://nfb.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=3733&qid=568205) for information on free books, lending libraries, and Braille book retailers.

[**The NFB Braille Reading Pals Club**](https://nfb.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=3734&qid=568205) and [**NFB Early Explorers**](https://nfb.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=3735&qid=568205) programs are sponsored in part by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children and the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults. For more information please contact:

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