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

**NFB Braille Reading Pals Club &**

**NFB Early Explorers**

October 2016

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

**As days get shorter and leaves transition into colorful crunches under our feet, the National Federation of the Blind prepares for one of our favorite times of the year. Did you know that October is National Meet the Blind Month? Did you know that October 15th is National White Cane Day? Through the month of October members of the National Federation of the Blind will be getting out, getting active, and getting involved. Join up with a local Meet the Blind Month event or White Cane Day celebration, or simply plan your own outreach activity.**

**My personal favorite is reading Braille books and handing out Braille alphabet cards to kindergarten students and Girl Scout troops. Let’s get out and show our communities that blindness is not the characteristic that defines your child’s future. Blindness will not hold them back.**

**Literacy Hints from the Hive**

**How could you celebrate White Cane Day on October 15th? Well, maybe a good start is to make sure all of your friends and neighbors know about it! Kristin Grender, a TVI and O&M instructor in Wisconsin, felt that it was important that everyone know about White Cane Day and what it represents. So, she wrote a cute picture book for young kids that explains the holiday, the white cane, and why we celebrate it. Her book is upbeat and positive while celebrating diversity within the blindness community. But, even while the book is cute and easy to read, she's also sure to get across the serious points of why the white cane is important and how to follow the white cane law. The most important lesson in her book is simple: "Visual impairments do not have to hold you back from success!” You can find this book on Amazon at** [**https://www.amazon.com/White-Cane-Day-Jacob-Slovacek-ebook/dp/1633186075/ref=sr\_1\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1475236865&sr=8-1&keywords=white+cane+day+book**](https://www.amazon.com/White-Cane-Day-Jacob-Slovacek-ebook/dp/1633186075/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1475236865&sr=8-1&keywords=white+cane+day+book)

**Travel Tales**

**With all of the excitement about National Meet the Blind Month and National White Cane Day, we can’t forget about the most fun holiday tradition for children everywhere, whether blind or sighted. Who’s ready for Halloween? Halloween is an excellent time for our little ghosts and goblins to get excited about using their canes. When coming up with costume ideas, how about getting creative and incorporating your child’s cane in the costume? Red duct tape can turn a cane into Darth Vader’s light saber. Teeth stickers can turn a white cane into the tooth fairy’s wand. The possibilities are endless. There’s nothing scary about trick or treating in the dark when you’ve got your long white cane with you.**

**A Taste of Honey**

**Pumpkin spice, pumpkin bread, pumpkin pie… oh my! How about pumpkin playdough? Below, you will find a recipe for a fun, hands on project for pumpkin spice playdough. Every child loves playdough and now you can turn it into a learning-play session as you work on measuring and mixing.**

**Ingredients:**

**1 cup flour**

**1 cup water**

**1/4 cup of salt (a little more if you use kosher salt)**

**1 tablespoon coconut oil**

**2 teaspoons cream of tartar**

**2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice (or a mix of cinnamon/nutmeg/cloves)**

**optional: food coloring or natural food based dyes (such as beet juice and turmeric)**

**Directions:**

**Combine all ingredients (except coloring) in a large pot.**

**Stir over medium heat until a big ball forms. (It should be smooth and no longer sticky.)**

**Remove from pot and allow to cool until the dough can be worked by hand.**

**Divide the dough into as many different colors you want.**

**Work the colors into the dough by adding a few drops at a time and kneading. (We used food coloring for red, yellow, and orange, and left one brown.  Similar colors could be achieved with natural juices: beet, carrot, turmeric.)**

**Enjoy!**

**This recipe was taken from** [**http://www.smallfriendly.com/small-friendly/2012/11/pumpkin-spice-playdough.html**](http://www.smallfriendly.com/small-friendly/2012/11/pumpkin-spice-playdough.html)

**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.

If you have questions, suggestions, ideas, or comments, please contact Braille Reading Pals at [braillereadingpals@nfb.org](mailto:braillereadingpals@nfb.org).

**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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