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

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

**September, 2016**

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

**In the National Federation of the Blind, the change of seasons from summer to fall brings along with it the season of state conventions in many of our affiliates across the country. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or new to the NFB family, we encourage you to attend a convention hosted by your home state. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet local and national leaders, and positive blind role models for both you and your child. To find out more about state conventions, contact your local NFB chapter or state NOPBC chapter or visit** [**https://nfb.org/state-conventions**](https://nfb.org/state-conventions) **or** [**www.nopbc.org**](http://www.nopbc.org)**.**

**Literacy Hints from the Hive**

**Earlier this summer, I learned about a GREAT new program from the National Braille Press called Great Expectations. This new interactive program takes reading to a whole new level for blind children. Not only are you provided with Braille books, you also turn reading into a fun, active, and engaging experience. Please visit** [**www.greatexpectations.pub**](http://www.greatexpectations.pub) **for more information on this wonderful new program for families and educators of blind children.**

**Travel Tales**

**The National Federation of the Blind provides a free white cane to any blind person every six months. As the parent of a blind child myself, we have gone through many canes by them getting broken in the car door, other children using them as swords or bats, breaking them, or our young child simply loosing or misplacing the cane. This is why we take advantage of the free white cane every six months; you never know when you might need a spare cane handy. Don’t leave your child in a lurch. Order a free white cane or purchase a spare cane from the NFB Independence Market today by calling 410-659-9314.**

**A Taste of Honey**

**Raising an independent blind child begins in the home long before they enter a classroom. While blindness skills like Braille, accessible technology, and orientation and mobility with a long white cane are vital, independent living skills are just as important in ensuring a well-adapted confident child. In our home, we expect both of our children, one sighted and one blind, to keep their rooms picked up, dress themselves, help with putting their laundry away, brush their own teeth, wipe counters clean, and do all other age-appropriate chores. In the kitchen both children help prepare meals and put their own dishes in the sink. Lighten up your own load by teaching your children self-sufficiency and resilience. Visit** [**http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/parenting-challenges/motivating-kids-to-clean-up/age-appropriate-chores**](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/parenting-challenges/motivating-kids-to-clean-up/age-appropriate-chores) **for a great read on age-appropriate chores.**

**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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