## Strategies in teaching Braille

Part 2



#### Basic aspects to achieve braille literacy

- Prereading skills:
  - o phonologic conscience
  - Letter-Symbol recognition
  - linguistic competence
  - motivation concentration
  - o ability of Interpretation of Symbols
  - orientation in the perceptive field
  - auditory discrimination of sounds

#### Basic aspects to achieve braille literacy

- Strategies motivating students:
  - change negative attitudes
  - o tell students to bring their literacy skills with them
  - stress on functional uses
  - increase positive impressions of blindness and people who are blind
  - Mentoring partnership
  - o individual reading level
  - o braille messages
  - o use braille yourself

#### Basic aspects to achieve braille literacy

#### Prebraille training:

- train the manual ability to differentiate and the ability to identify
- Subdivide the spacial relationship of the dots themselves and communicate about it. Memorising relations between numbers helps the letter coding process in the long-termmemory
- Newly blinded individuals:
  - former reading level
  - preferences according to literature (helps you to find the right material)

# Memorizing the dots - different ways to teach the alphabet

- Alphabet
- From left to right

```
A ::, B ::, L ::, P ::, Q ::
```

- When teaching individually focus on:
  - o frequency of letters in your language
  - o from left to right
  - choose letters of different dot arrangements (avoid mirrorimage-effect)

#### **Identification of letters**

- A correct identification of letters depends on:
  - o the number of dots which compose the letter
  - o their organization (how many dots are left or right?)
  - the relation of that letter with other letters within the perceptive field

### The mechanics of braille reading

- Work on a firm and flat reading surface below elbow-level so that arms can move freely. The best readers adopt an erect but comfortable and relaxed position
- o to ensure that the finger pad is making maximum contact with the braille letters
- hands need to be arched for maximum contact with the reading surface
- lightness of touch
- smooth scanning movements
- o establish a preferred hand and finger early
- o use a non-slip pad for reading
- use both hands to learn techniques to increase reading speed

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