Strategies in teaching Braille
Part 3

Writing braille
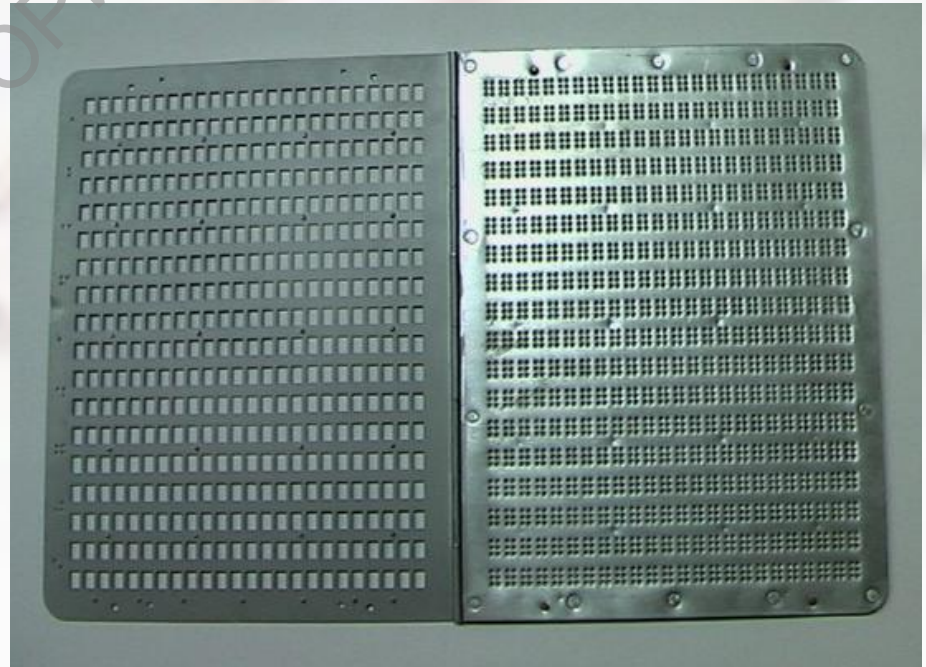
1. Slate and Stylus
2. Braille writer
3. Keyboarding (regular keyboard/braille keyboard)

Writing with a Slate and Stylus

- portable tool for writing braille
- pencil for visually Impaired
- does not depend on technology
- easy to carry around

Slate and Stylus instruction

- introduction Is individual

- opportunity to focus the students attention on the receptive communication demands of the audience

Suggestions for teaching writing with the Slate and Stylus

- use slate and stylus yourself prior to beginning instruction (e.g. feedback, grade on test)
- use hand-over-hand method
- again: avoid unnecessary drill and practice

Suggestions for teaching writing with the Slate and Stylus

- functional writing as soon as possible:use hand-over-hand method
  - jotting down homework assignments
  - writing note to teacher
  - making personal shopping lists
  - labeling personal items
  - writing name and telephone number
  - signing a birthday or greeting card

Suggestions for teaching writing with the Slate and Stylus

- Incorporate use of slate and stylus throughout the school day. Start with tasks that do not require a high degree of accuracy (such as making personal lists) and move toward those that do require accuracy (such as telephone numbers)

- As instruction advances, place emphasis on developing speed for note-taking purposes. Prior instruction in note taking on the braillewriter is necessary. Avoid overemphasis on accuracy

Suggestions for teaching writing with the Slate and Stylus

- Practice note taking skills from a tape
- Discuss with the student the tasks when and how to use slate and stylus
- Familiarize the student with a variety of different types of slate and stylus instruments and their uses

Writing with a Braille writer

- place the paper properly in the brailler
- memorize dot numbers
- translate dot numbers to keys on the paper
- use swing cell
- provide "scribbling"
- meaningful writing tasks
- avoid drill and practice training

Braille writing instruction

- modes of writing are unique
- balance instruction in the tools for writing with meaningful and purposeful writing experiences
- focus on functional use

Writing by typing and keyboarding

- direct communication through written language with persons who read print
- provide purpose by using word processing

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