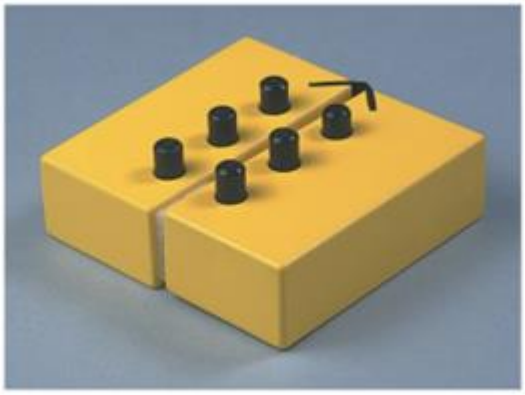
SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Swing Cell Compact

(Early Literacy Braille Manipulatives – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
The Braille Swing Cell is a hands-on tool designed to help students understand the relationship between the braille cell and the keys on a braillewriter. • In the closed position, removable pegs placed in the blocks represent the six dots of a standard braille cell. • When opened, the pegs shift to represent the corresponding keys on a braillewriter, showing how each key produces a specific braille dot. • The device also features internal storage for safely keeping the pegs when not in use.	 Purchasing Information Demo Video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Have low vision or are blind.
- Learn best through tactile exploration or need additional sensory cues to learn early literacy skills, such as letter recognition.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Learn the dot formations to read and write braille letters.
- Explore letters through tactile exploration.
- Develop early literacy skills.
- Work on fine motor skills.
- Begin to explore the relationship between a braille cell and the keys on a braillewriter.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Can be used during large group activities, small group activities, and one-on-one instruction. • Can be used at school, home, or the community. **Positioning**	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Dycem **Stabilize It** • Place Dycem under the swing cell to create a non-slip surface, helping keep it in place for children who might accidentally push the swing cell away while exploring with their hands and placing pegs in the holes.

- The Swing Cell can be used in any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc.

Alternate Positioning

- Alternate positioning of side-lying, on their belly (prone), lying on the back (supine), kneeling, etc. may also be possible.

Basic Play/Use

- Learn the orientation and dot locations of a braille cell.
- Identify the numbers that are associated with each dot of the braille cell.
- Create braille letters by placing pegs in the swing cell.
- Begin to learn about the relationship between a braille cell and the keys on a braillewriter.

Extended Play/Use

- Listen to the Braille Letters Practice Song and make the letters on the swing cell as you listen to the song!

Play/Use with Others

- Take turns putting the pegs

Simplify It

- If the child is having difficulty placing the pegs into the holes, gently place the pegs in the swing cell yourself, then guide the child to explore the placement by touch. Encourage them to feel where each peg is located, helping them build spatial awareness and understanding of the task through tactile feedback. This approach supports learning while reducing frustration and maintaining engagement.
- Use hand under hand guidance to assist a child who is blind or has low vision to encourage and demonstrate tactile exploration.

Contain it

- Keep the pegs in a container so they are easy to locate and pick up.

Add Sensory Cues

- Add a tactile cue to the block so a student who is blind or has low vision knows the correct orientation of the blocks when learning and reading letters. Ex: dot of puffy paint on the top of the block

Communication Support

- For students with some vision, provide a communication board with vocabulary appropriate (e.g. touch, on, off, up, down, more, red, blue, etc.) for the child to engage with the swing cell.

Alternative Uses

- Practice fine motor skills by picking up the pegs and placing them in the holes on the swing cell.
- Use the swing cell to teach counting, number identification, or even simple operations like addition or subtraction.
- Teach spatial concepts such as top, bottom, middle, left and right by placing the pegs in various spots of the swing cell.
- Use the swing cell alongside tactile books to reinforce a key letter, number or concept from the story. For example, if a character's name

	begins with "B", set the swing cell to dots 1 and 2 and have the child feel and identify it. DIY Alternatives • Use a 6 cup muffin tin and tennis balls to create a braille cell. • Cut an egg carton in half to make 2 full braille cells. Make the letters using ping pong sized balls. Learn how to turn your egg carton into a swing cell.

Additional Considerations:

- WARNING: Choking Hazard — Small Parts. Not intended for children ages 5 and under without adult supervision.

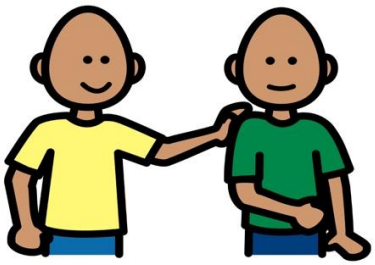
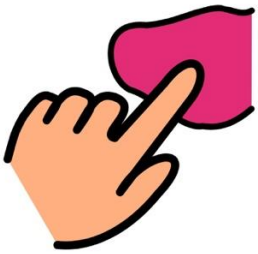
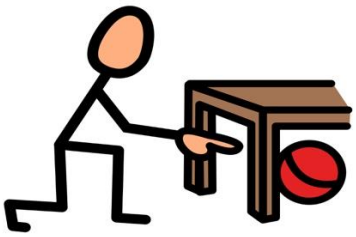
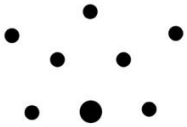
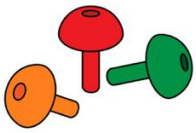
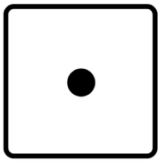
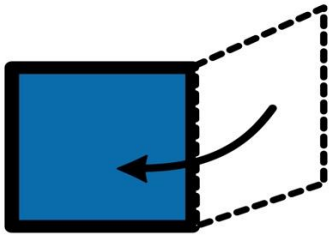
Additional Resources:

- Watch this Braille Song on YouTube to learn more about Braille!
- Tips and Tools for Teaching Beginning Braille Skills – Paths to Literacy
- Introducing the Swing Cell to Beginning Braille Students – Paths to Literacy
- Read more about hand under hand guidance and technique.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- LL: Print Awareness: Develops knowledge of the alphabet. (3.b.).
- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Engages in new and unfamiliar experiences and activities. (1.a.).
- CO: Memory: Develops the ability to recall information about objects, people, and past experiences. (1.a.)
- MA: Number Sense: Develops understanding of one-to-one correspondence and cardinality. (1.b.).
- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination. (1.b.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Touch 	Feel 	Find 
Dots 	Pegs 	One 
Two 	Three 	Four 
Five 	Six 	Letter **Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff**
Open 	Close 	

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