

# E-CONNECTOR

## News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

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### GETTING READY TO READ

Kids who read Braille need strength in their arms, fingers and hands in order to push the Braille writer keys or punch paper with a stylus. They also need to be ready to take in the tactile sensations of dots on paper. Fortunately it's easy to build strength, hand coordination and tactile readiness through play. Here are some activities that will help build strong Braille readers.

### FOR ARM AND HAND STRENGTH:

The human wheelbarrow—hold the child's feet while they walk on their hands.

Fill pails with sand, lift and pour.

Climb on play equipment at the park.

Push and pull toys.

### FOR HAND AND FINGER STRENGTH:

Squeeze water out of sponges.

Attach clothes pins to the edge of a box.

Open jars with lids

Play with pull-apart toys such as pop beads, Legos®, and magnets.

Pull the trigger on a squirt gun or spray bottle.

Mold and pinch play dough.

Pull up a zipper.

### FOR FINGER SENSITIVITY:

Find toys with interesting textures and sort...smooth, fuzzy, bumpy, etc.

Bath time: Talk about the feel of the soap, the washcloth, and the lather of shampoo.

Finger paint with shaving cream.

Serve finger foods with different textures such as cracker pieces, soft bread, spaghetti, cereal.

**Editor's Note:** Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: [copobc@gmail.com](mailto:copobc@gmail.com), attention Julie Hunter, editor

Visit us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/COPOBC>



### ACCESSIBLE COMPUTER GAME: “THREE-D VELOCITY”

Three-D Velocity is a combat flight simulation game designed with blind gamers in mind. The player is in complete control of the simulated aircraft, from take off to landing on an aircraft carrier. The pilot can engage in aerial dog fights with other aircraft or play in “Mission Mode” where the pilot carries out an assigned combat mission. Unlike standard video games where information is conveyed through graphics, Three-D Velocity uses directional sound. “If you’ve ever wanted to fly at mach two, shoot down other aircraft, make split-second decisions to save your own life, and play the lead role in the outcome of a mission started by United States black operation forces, Three-D Velocity is definitely for you.” (Quoted from The Braille Monitor, October 2011, page 812). To download a copy of this game go to [www.bpcprograms.com](http://www.bpcprograms.com).



### LIFE IN THE MAINSTREAM

(Excerpted from Laura Bostick’s article in The Braille Monitor, Vol 55, No. 4, page 315).

The 2012 NOPBC (National Organization of Parents of Blind Children) Conference, “Life in the Mainstream”, will be part of the NFB national convention in Dallas, Texas, which runs from June 30 to July 5. All families and teachers of blind and visually impaired children are welcome, and we have planned activities for everyone. Highlights for parents and teachers include:

Saturday, June 30:

The full day NOPBC Seminar with speakers, workshops, activities for children and youth and a family hospitality meet-and-greet in the evening.

Sunday, July 1:

Cane Walks and the Youth Fashion Show

Monday, July 2:

The NOPBC Annual Meeting, the Braille Book Fair and Dad’s Night Out.

Tuesday, July 3:

NOPBC IEP Workshops and other sessions in the evening.

(Go to the [NFB website](http://www.nfb.org) for more details about the convention. Don’t miss it!)



### COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND EVENT

Come one, come all! Support the CCB by buying tickets to the **Littleton Home & Garden Tour**. On Saturday, June 16, 2012, from ten a.m. to three p.m., some of Littleton’s finest homes will open their doors for all to view the spectacular architecture, décor and gardens within. This is an opportunity for us, the parents and friends of blind children, to give back to the Colorado Center for the Blind which does so much to provide opportunities and services to blind children in Colorado. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$20 per person, or for \$25 on the day of the event. To buy, go to [www.coloradocenterfortheblind.org](http://www.coloradocenterfortheblind.org) or purchase at the CCB, 2233 W. Shepperd Ave., Littleton, Colorado. Refreshments and lunch will be available for purchase at the Colorado Center during the home tour hours.



**FINAL REMINDER:  
SUMMER FUN AT THE COLO-  
RADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND!**  
(Time is running out. Call Brent  
Batron 303-778-1130 ext.  
222to register.)

**Ages 5-11:**  
**CONFIDENCE CAMP** Day camp  
for the elementary school set.  
**DATE:** June 11-22;  
Basic daily living skills; simple  
cooking; recreational outings;  
arts and crafts.

**Ages 11-14:**  
**INITIATION TO INDEPENDENCE**  
**Middle School Camp**  
**DATE:** July 16-August 3  
(Overnight camp.)  
Supervised cane travel,  
adaptive skills training;  
recreational activities;  
experiences shopping; traveling  
on the bus; cooking, etc.

**Ages 14-18:**  
**EARN AND LEARN HIGH**  
**SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
Residential  
(includes trip to NFB National  
Convention in Dallas).  
**DATE:** June 8-August 3  
Work experience with a half  
day paid job; recreational  
activities; assessment and  
training on adaptive technology

**High School Graduates and  
Older:  
SUMMER FOR SUCCESS  
COLLEGE PROGRAM**

Residential  
(includes trip to NFB National  
Convention in Dallas).  
**DATE:** June 8-August 3  
Supervised experience in  
independent living; develop  
skills needed to succeed in  
college

The Colorado Center for the  
Blind is located at 2233 W.  
Shepperd Ave.; Littleton, CO

**BELL: A SUMMER BRAILLE**  
**CAMP FOR KIDS**

*Ages 4 – 12*  
July 16-27 (Colorado Springs)  
July 23-Aug. 3 (Westminster)

The BELL Program, a project of  
the NFB Jernigan Institute, is a  
two week day camp. The  
letters B.E.L.L. stand for “Braille  
Enrichment for Literacy and  
Learning”. Children will gain  
confidence in reading and  
writing while engaged in  
games, crafts and exciting  
outdoor activities.

Register by going to the [NFB  
website](#). For more information  
contact program coordinator,  
Diane McGeorge, at 303-321-  
4268 or e-mail  
[rmcgeorge@comcast.net](mailto:rmcgeorge@comcast.net), or  
Michelle Chacon at  
[mchacon@adams50.org](mailto:mchacon@adams50.org) or  
phone 303-456-9000.



**CALENDAR OF**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 5, 12 & 19**

**ROCK CLIMBING AND HIKING**

Where: Eldorado and Clear  
Creek Canyons

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. each day

In conjunction with the  
National Sports Center for the  
Disabled (NSCD), the Colorado  
Center for the Blind invites kids  
of all ages and their families for  
the fun and challenge of  
climbing the rocks in the  
morning, lunch by the creek,  
and hiking in the afternoon.

Sign up for all 3 climbs or select  
the days that you want to  
participate. There is NO cost  
for this event.

Space is limited to 16 each day.  
RSVP to Brent at 303-778-1130  
ext. 222 or  
[bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)