E-CONNECTOR

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

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SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Here are a few ideas for making the most of summer with your blind/visually impaired child:

READING:

Summer is a great time to read! Readers of all ages can find resources for free books, borrowed books or purchased books in this article posted on Perkins <u>WonderBaby.org</u> website.

SWIMMING:

A couple tips for successful trips to the swimming pool:

*When working on putting the face under water, encourage the child to hum, thereby requiring him to keep his mouth closed while expelling air through the nose.

*Demonstrate kicks and arm strokes on dry land before entering pool for a lesson. Lie on a beach towel and have child follow, with his hands, the movements of your hands and legs as you demonstrate a stroke.

*Place a radio on the side of the pool for a consistent point of orientation.

BASEBALL GAME:

As the song says,"Take me out to a ballgame". But first, your child needs to understand the game. Create a tactile baseball diamond on a piece of cardboard. Glue plastic checkers on for the bases and glue down string in between the checkers to identify the base lines. Use other tactile pieces, such as nuts (as in nuts and bolts), or coins, to represent players and proceed to identify the field positions. Listen to some of a professional game broadcast on the radio and replicate what is happening on the tactile board you have created. Now you are ready to enjoy a live game together!



Editor's Note:

Please 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:

<u>copobc.newsletter@gmail.com</u>, attention Julie Hunter, editor.



NETFLIX-LIKE SERVICE FOR THE BLIND

Scheduled to launch later this year, Zagga Entertainment will be offering a fully accessible video on demand subscription service. A wide selection of audio described movies and TV shows will be available through an accessible, secure website and mobile app designed to work with screen readers. Now blind kids, like their sighted peers, can independently navigate to the movie they want to watch and have it play to them on a computer or tablet with all the action described. For example, Toy Story and Up are listed as movies that will be available. The cost for this subscription service is not available at this time. For more information about this go to the Zagga Entertainment website.



CHILDREN'S TACTILE BOOK PROJECT

3D printing is one of the latest advances in the world of technology. Seeing the

potential for bringing pictures in a book to life for blind children. University of Colorado Assistant Professor Tom Yeh and his team are exploring ways to use 3D printing to create picture books that blind children can experience fully. The children's classic "Goodnight Moon" is the center of their research effort. Yeh says the hope is that as 3D printers become more available to the general public in the future, they can be used to create 3D versions of the illustrations in books. The goal of Yeh and his team is to develop software that will allow parents, teachers and others to create their own customized books on a 3D printer.



JOSEPH AND HIS DREAMCOAT

Phamaly is an organization that brings together actors with disabilities for professional caliber performances. From July 10-August 10, Phamaly is presenting Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Space Theatre in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts theater complex. Joseph ... will be presented with audio description on Sunday, July 20th at the 2:00 p.m. show. A riotous explosion of song and dance, *Joseph* ... blends pop, country and rock music into the retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colors. Tickets start at \$30 and can be purchased by calling 303-893-4100 or 800-641-1222.



SHREK THE MUSICAL

The Boulder Dinner Theatre will be offering audio description for the matinee performance of "Shrek, the Musical" on July 6th. Here's what they have to say about the musical:

"Full of all-new songs, great dancing and scenery, *Shrek the Musical* is part romance, part twisted fairy tale and all irreverent fun for everyone!"

Family Four Pack tickets start at \$25 each person, and individual seats start at \$38. Ticket admission also includes one of their "signature" entrees accompanied by mixed green salad and freshly baked bread.

For more information go to the Boulder Dinner Theater website. To purchase tickets call

10 purchase tickets call 303-449-6000.