



## Guide Dogs' Introduction to the Senses

Thank you for inviting us into your setting - we hope you have a fun learning experience with us! Please take the time to read this through before we visit alongside our risk assessment guidance. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the volunteer who is delivering your experience or email [learning@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:learning@guidedogs.org.uk).

### Overview of the experience

This 1-hour experience will sensitively explain the range of vision impairments people may have and the challenges they bring to everyday life. By showing how people with sight loss may take more notice of their other senses to help, children will gain a sound understanding of which part of the body is associated with each sense.

- Introduction with video (10 mins).
- Rotation of groups around five tabletop activities that link into each sense (8 mins at each activity).
  - Hearing = using a bell ball and activity to guess the sound and location using musical instruments.
  - Touch = Braille objects and activity sheet.
  - Smell = tactile book and multisensory story task.
  - Taste = rate the coloured foods.
  - Sight = using our simulation spectacles to complete a simple task - you may want children to eat their snack, pour a drink of water, or put on their coat.
- Close of session with video (10 mins).

### Resources and set-up

We will provide all resources for this experience other than those everyday items requested below.

Please can we ask for:

- Children to be sat as a whole group for the start of the experience and we can have the five activities set up around the classroom to be accessed immediately after our introduction.
- A screen and internet access to show the videos.
- 4 handheld musical instruments.
- The Braille activity sheet to be photocopied for the group.
- Paper and pencil.
- Optional: if you have any other tactile books available, such as from the 'That's not my...' series, these are a lovely addition to the experience.



In advance of the experience, alongside this document and risk assessment guidance, we will have sent through to you the video link, and the photocopiable Braille sheet and parent information letter.

## **A few points to help things run smoothly...**

- Please ensure there is shared understanding with yourself and our volunteer of the arrival procedure, timings, room set-up required, plus resources you can provide and those needed to be brought by the volunteer.
- Our volunteers will lead the content of the experience but will not be responsible for class management or organisation and should not be left in charge of any group or class. We politely request for children to show age-appropriate sensible behaviour throughout the experience.
- Please share any accessibility requirements or behavioural issues of pupils you feel the volunteer needs to know to lead the experience effectively.
- Some of our volunteers are guide dog owners and/or have sight loss. They will discuss with you any specific requirements before their visit but please ensure that routes to the site are accessible and that you take the lead in Q&A sessions as our volunteer may not see hands raised. Please use your own actions to demonstrate to students how to best support a person with sight loss - not distracting a guide dog, how to start a conversation to ask if they need assistance...if you're not sure, feel free to ask us!
- We won't be using our own mobile phones in your classroom, but we encourage all schools to take photos using their own systems and share on social media, tagging **@GuideDogs** in so we can share further and let everyone know what a wonderful group you are!

## **Risk assessment**

Please now read through our accompanying risk assessment guidance: this may help if you wish to fill out your own organisation's risk assessment. As the organiser of an activity, you're responsible for keeping everyone who's involved as safe as possible. We encourage you to discuss your risk assessment when in conversation with our volunteer prior to the experience. We also expect as a condition of booking that you have public liability insurance in place and may ask to see evidence of this.

**Thank you for letting us share our learning experience with you!**

## **End of document.**