



## Guide Dogs' STEM experience

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 highlight the use of STEM in the services Guide Dogs provide to help people with sight loss live the life they choose. We will look at assistive technology and understand that this can be used to ensure inclusion and is beneficial for everyone.

- Introduction with video and whole group activity (15 mins).
- Choice of activities (35 mins).
  - Handle and use assistive technology examples and complete activity to name and explain each item.
  - Use of simulation spectacles and blindfolds to show difficulty of an everyday task and design challenge to draw a prototype of a solution for this.
  - iPad activities = challenges whilst wearing a blindfold/simulation spectacles (to use voiceover function to find the school webpage and to use Seeing AI to pair up a pile of socks) and a challenge to use Clips to create a short video to promote Guide Dogs.
- Close of session with review (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:

- A screen and internet access to show the PowerPoint/video.
- Blindfolds or students to have pre-made paper blindfolds using our template.
- Pens and paper for the design challenge.
- iPads with voiceover switched on in the accessibility section of settings or by asking Siri to 'Turn on VoiceOver'. Siri will also switch this off if asked 'Turn off VoiceOver'.
- iPads with Seeing AI app - this is a free app that narrates the world by describing nearby people, text and objects.





In advance of the experience, alongside this document and risk assessment guidance, we will have sent through to you the PowerPoint with video, the Blindfold Template, and the 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 and your school tablet/computer policy 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.**

