

# Challenge: Swap Your Senses

We usually read by using our eyes, but what happens if you can't use your eyes to read? Then you can use your sense of touch, and braille. Braille is a system of raised dots that blind people can read. Braille is read by touch, using your fingers to feel the letters and symbols. Blind people can also make their own braille using computers or other gadgets. Braille is available in nearly every language and used throughout the world.

Each letter of the alphabet, punctuation mark or number has its own special symbol/s. Each symbol is made by arranging raised dots within a six-dot braille cell. By using some or all of the six available dots a large number of different letters and symbols can be created. Each of the six dots has a number to help identify which one you are talking about.



The space that six dots occupy is known as a braille cell

We'd like you to have a go at writing using the braille system, then perhaps having a go at making your own braille dots. Does your family know anyone who uses braille?

## You will need:

- Paper
- Card
- Pencil

**Step 1:** Have a look at the braille cell alphabet below. On a sheet of paper (or the worksheet attached), have a go at writing your name to begin with, then underneath, colouring the dots for each letter using the braille alphabet. Have a go at writing other braille words.

**Step 2:** Once you've mastered this, why not play a game with your family? Instead of writing your name, this time, just colour in the dots on the braille cells to make a sentence or perhaps a message. Give your family the braille alphabet to help them, and ask them to work out your sentence or message by colouring the dots!

**Step 3:** With an adult's help, try and make your own braille – be careful as you'll need to use something sharp. Find some cardboard (recycled is fine) then draw out your name to begin with, using the coloured dots system just like before. From the other side of the cardboard, push a sharp object (such as a pencil or pen) through for each of the coloured dots. Work your way through your name (remember, one braille cell per letter), then close your eyes and feel the dots. Imagine reading EVERYTHING this way. You could ask an adult to create a braille word or short sentence for you to feel to try and work out.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	X	Y	Z	W				

## Main

## Additional

## Which skills will I be developing?



**Skills Builder**  
PARTNERSHIP



# Braille these objects – activity sheet

Use your braille handout and colour in the dots to make braille words

Practise with  
your first name: \_\_\_\_\_

in print



in braille

in print



in braille



in print



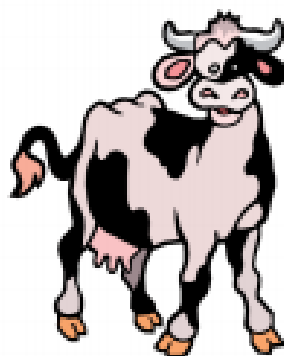
in braille



in print



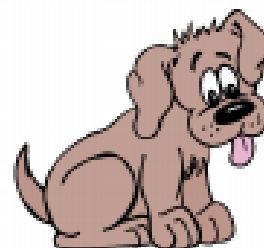
in braille



in print



in braille



in print



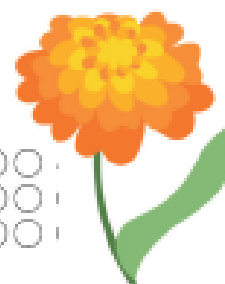
in braille



in print



in braille



# Braille these words – activity sheet

Translate the words and sentences that your teacher gives you into braille.

Practise with  
your first name: .....

in print



in braille

in print



in print



in print



in print



in print

