Exploring Braille
with Madilyn and Ruff

app best practices
effective use for young children with visual impairments

narrated by Hillary Kleck, developer

Sensory Sun

AD ⭐

exploring braille
with madilyn and ruff

🐾 **Teach me**

🐾 **Let's Play**

🐾 **Quit**

Parent Info

app purpose & goals

- introduce blind children to reading and writing the alphabet

  braille literacy

- give blind children an app which they can play along with peers of any sight level

  socialization

- promote assistive technology usage at a younger age

  independence

achieving these goals with your student

- only useful if you actually USE it!

- set a time aside for students to play with the app together giving them the opportunity to see how users with different sight levels navigate the iPad

- sync a refreshable braille display to use for 6 dot keyboard input and "real" braille output

set a schedule

- Schedule app "play" time each day, at least once a day (if not twice a day) for 20 minutes

- If possible, allow the child to take home the devices to share with family and friends to encourage progress and learning braille together

- If your child/student does not have access to an iPad, the app or a refreshable braille display, then request that the school obtain them

HELP ME!

introducing the app

- students with no prior braille experience should be introduced to the braille cell along with the app

- give the child time to explore the iPad using touch screen based gestures with VoiceOver ON

- as well as time to explore using the refreshable braille display

tell me how!
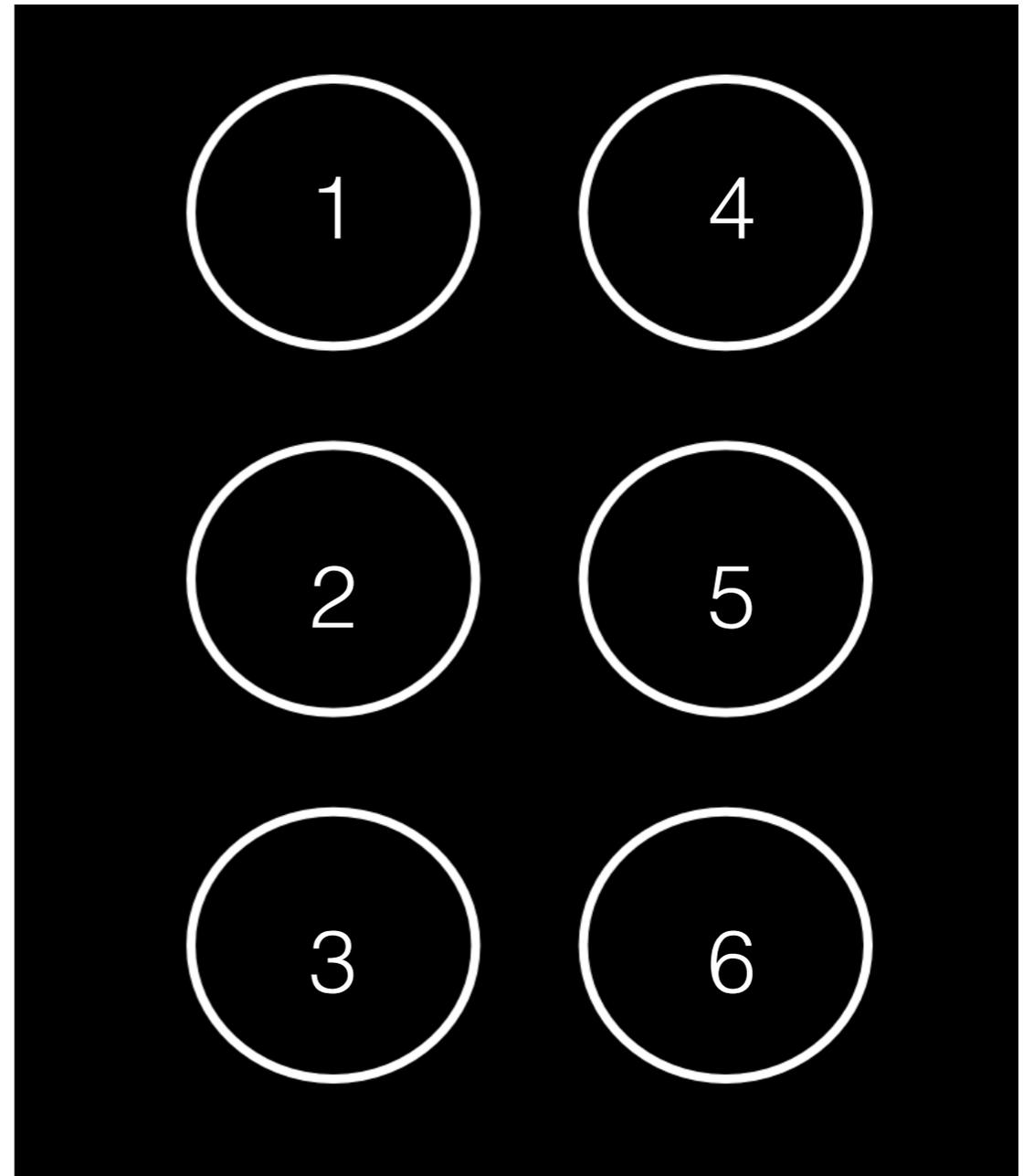
Teach me

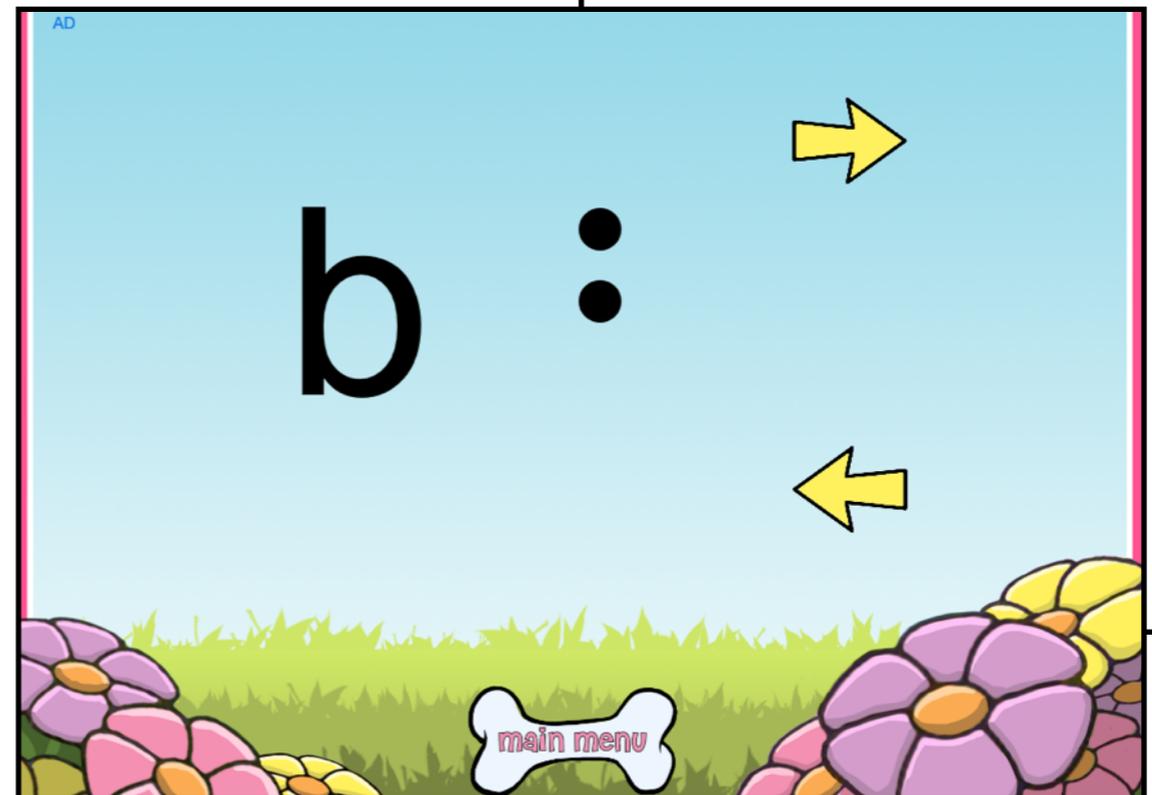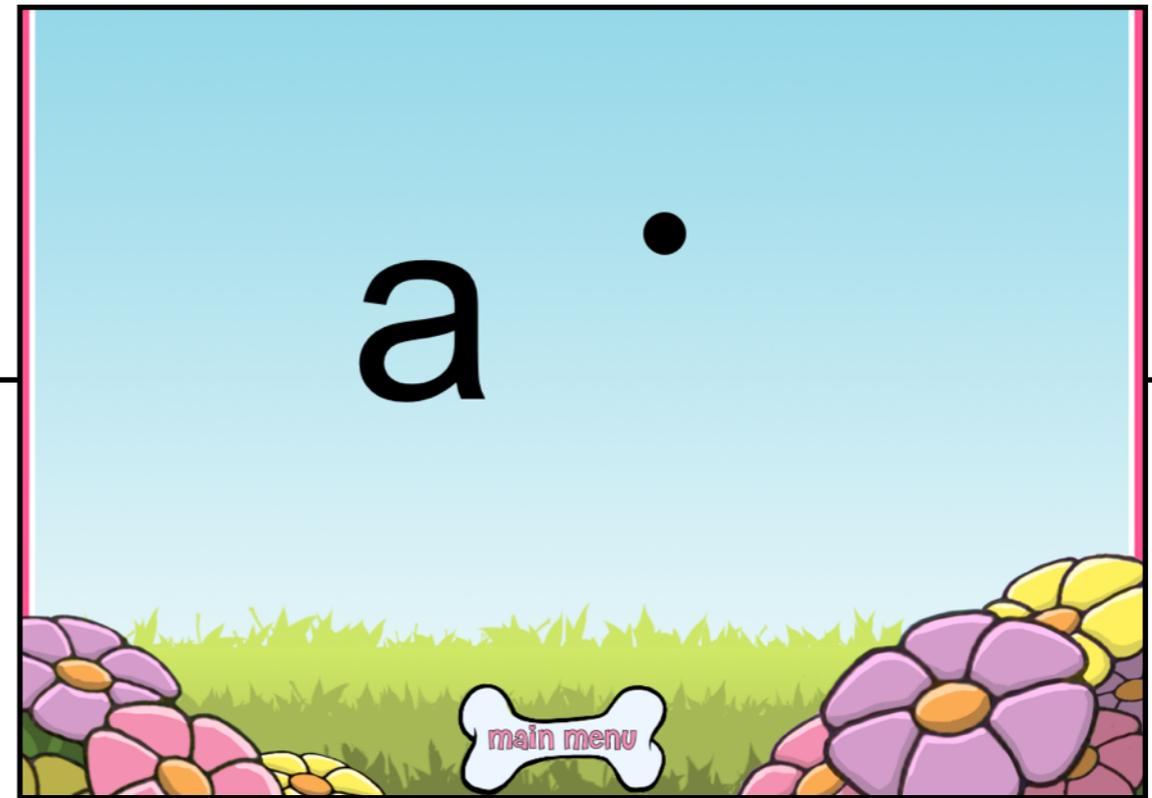- 🐾 Flashcards

- 🐾 AlphaGuide

main menu

the plan

- introduce the alphabet a-z using the activity, *Teaching: AlphaGuide*

- use the activity *Teaching: Flashcards* to practice reading letters at the student's own pace

how fast will my child learn?

Let's Play

Reading

Writing

main menu
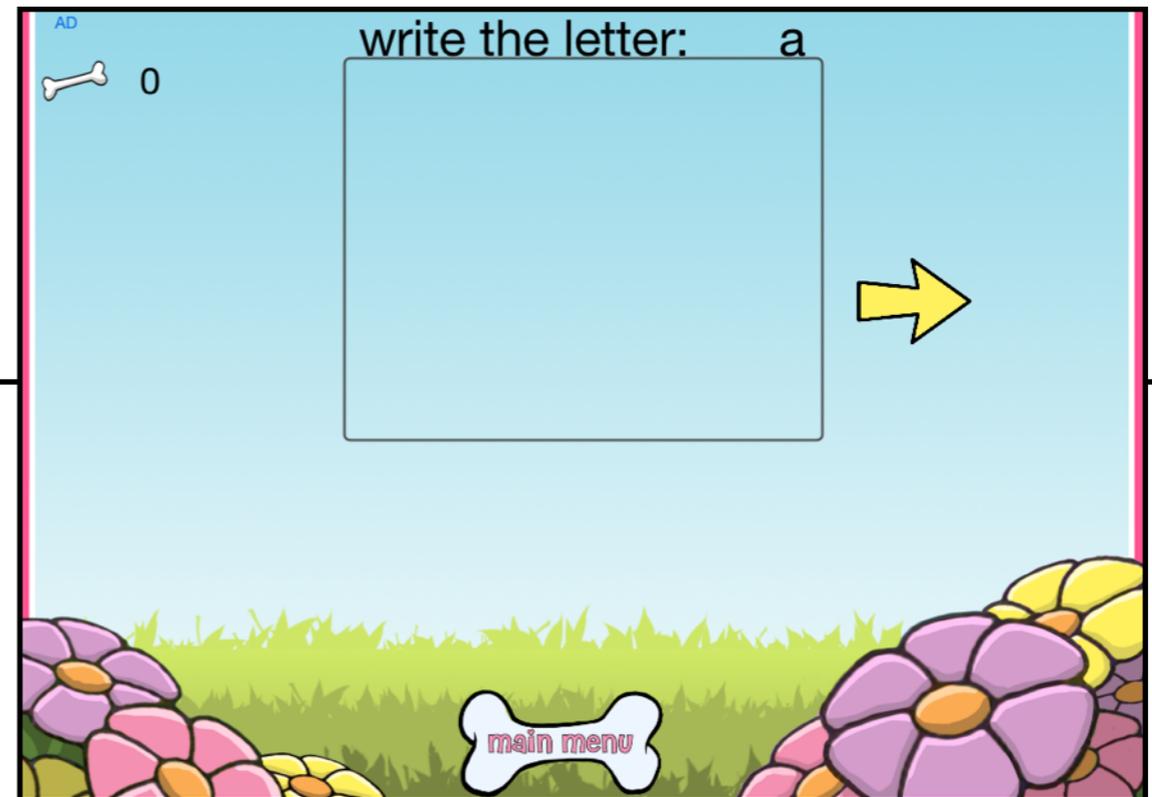
the plan

- after reviewing the dot configurations, use the activity *Let's Play: Writing* for a-z practice

- once the child knows a few letters by touch, use *Let's Play: Reading* to practice identifying letters given 3 choices

what if we don't have a RBD?

Flip each card to reveal the next letter

printed →

r

printed →

⠐

YOU add "real" braille →

h
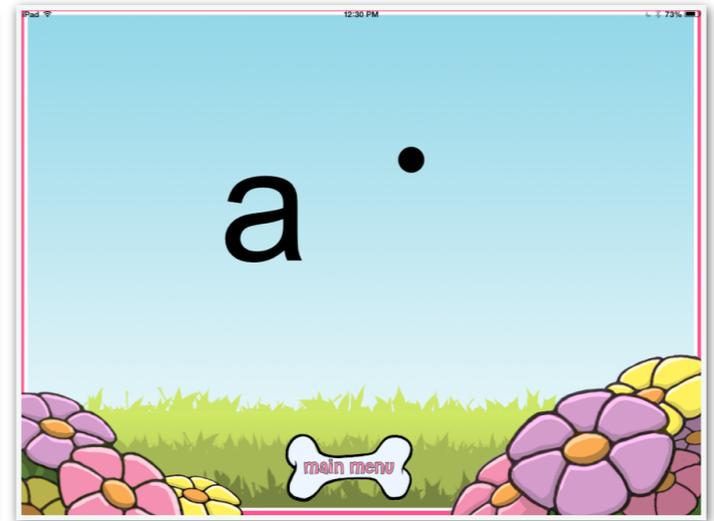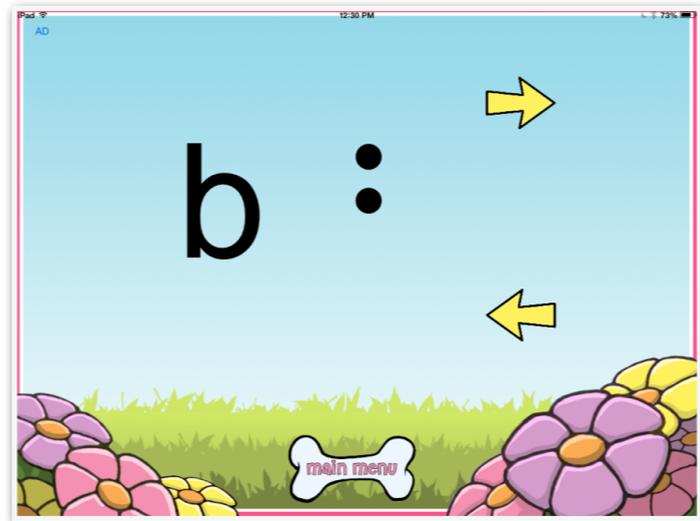
a

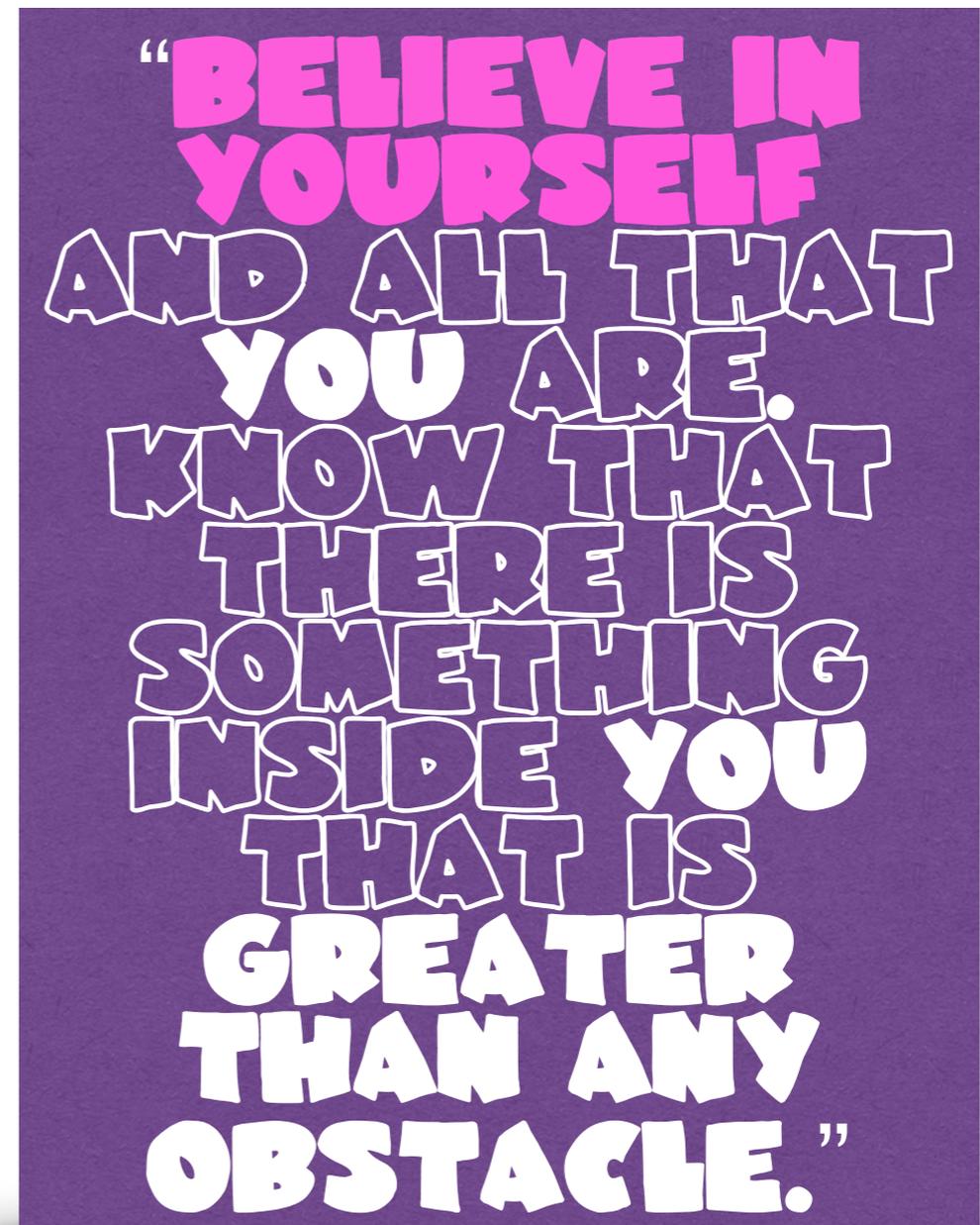portray screen using flashcards for "real" braille exposure

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tips for progress

- introduce the letter "a" first, then introduce "b" and "c"

- decide if you will teach the letters in alphabetical order or another order

- keep track of the score pages for each activity and set goals for the week

- explore the entire alphabet daily but only focus on the child's progress of the letters the he/she is currently studying

"BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND ALL THAT YOU ARE. KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMETHING INSIDE YOU THAT IS GREATER THAN ANY OBSTACLE."

tips for comprehension

- use 3D objects to associate with each letter, i.e. have the student feel an apple after given the letter "a" on the app

- add braille labels to items around the classroom and home

- Kids will enjoy using the app in their own ways! Try making up your own word games to use along with the Teaching activities.

questions?

We know our app is unique and we want parents and teachers to know we're here to help AND we love feedback!

Don't hesitate to contact us anytime via our website at www.sensorysun.org, or email: hgw.kleck@gmail.com

We're proud to have
Exploring Braille with Madilyn and Ruff
increasing braille literacy in 7 countries!

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