

Number 6, Friday 5 May 2023

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PD events

The [2023 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available for download on our website. See below for links to the events in Term 2 2023.

Tuesday May 9 [Inclusion of students who have vision impairments in art](#)

Providing practical strategies that teachers can use in their art classes to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind or partially sighted.

Tuesday May 23 [Teaching and learning with braille music](#)

Providing practical strategies for music teachers to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind.

NEW DATE Tuesday June 13 [Inclusion of students who have vision impairments in PE](#)

Providing fresh ideas and practical strategies to enable teachers to support the inclusion of students who are blind or partially sighted in physical education.

On Demand PL

All of our professional learning workshops are now available on demand where participants can access all the videos and resources at a time that suits them. You can find links through the [On Demand page](#), under Professional Learning, on our website.

Message from the Manager

Source: Jane Barker, Manager, SVRC

Thank you to the wonderful staff here at SVRC for warmly welcoming me into the team. I am Jane Barker, and I began working at SVRC at the end of term one, working alongside Kim Foley in a 0.6 Assistant Principal/Manager role. Kim is currently floating around Europe on a very well-deserved break. In the meantime, the team here have been busily ensuring our teachers, schools and students continue to receive the absolute best support and resources and I am on a very steep learning curve, enjoying understanding the many distinct aspects of SVRC.

It is not surprising that I am feeling inspired by all the goings on in this small building.

- With the transcription team working away behind computer screens demonstrating amazing concentration and passion for the important work they do.
- To human brains being 3D printed and assembled.

- To the delightful sounds of happy kids and the delicious aromas of Anzac biscuits being prepared and cooked by students in the Friday Support Skills Program.
- Not to mention dinosaurs spilling out of tubs in preparation for the Dot Power program!
- Then onto EVAC which has run clinics and telehealth appointments and followed up with school visits travelling to many corners of the state.
- To the Community of Practice this week which used the sophisticated video and sound technology labs here at SVRC and offered yet more invaluable professional learning.
- To the capable admin team who problem solve, smile and ensure each day runs smoothly.
- And yes, wait there is more ... Space Camp and all the preparation and time that goes into this.

And finally, the enormous pleasure it is to get to know some of the students at the Heatherwood School who are more than willing to stop for a chat.

What a dynamic place! If passing, please pop in to see us.

Warm Regards

Jane Barker

Accessible Maths Series

Source: SVRC/Paths to Literacy

Sharing ideas for making maths accessible.

We are always open to more ideas and suggestions – please contact Marion if you want to comment or share your Maths ideas. marion.blaze@education.vic.gov.au

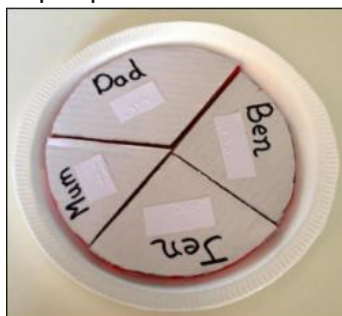
Accessible Maths Series Number 4 – Making graphs accessible

Here are some ideas from a "Paths to Literacy" article on creating large print and tactile graphs. Use these examples with your students to make their own graphs.

The full article is accessible [here](#).

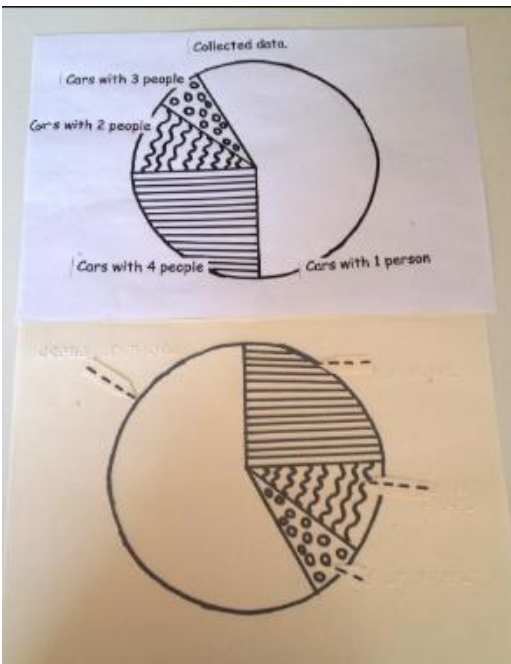
Primary Pie Charts

Paper plate with thick cardboard used to make the "pie pieces"



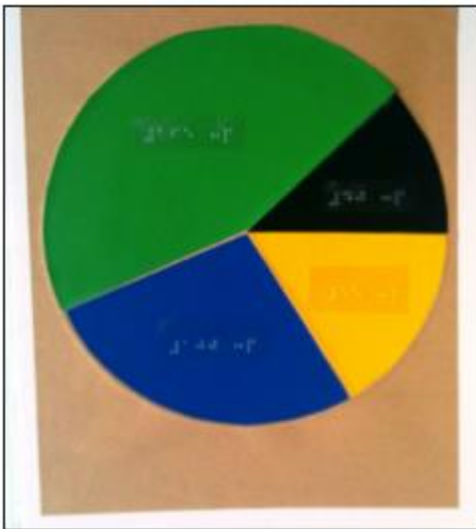
Secondary Pie Chart

This pie chart shows how many people travel in one car. The government target to get two or more people in one car is 40%.



Further examples of pie charts:

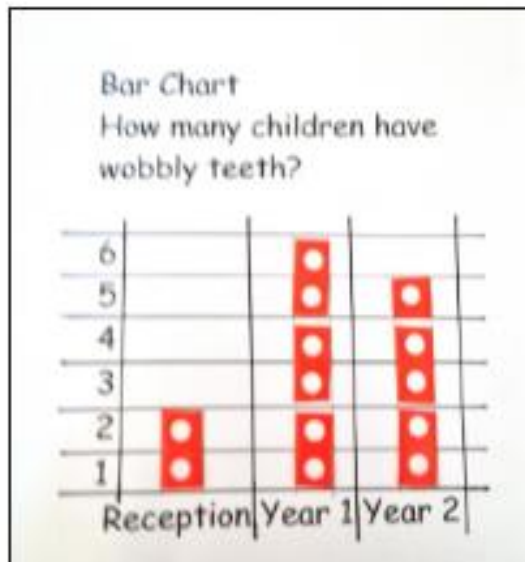
Tactile and colour used to identify each area of the pie chart. (Image on left)
 Made on PIAF paper, lines raised using PIAF machine. (Image on right)



Primary Bar Chart – tactile version (right)

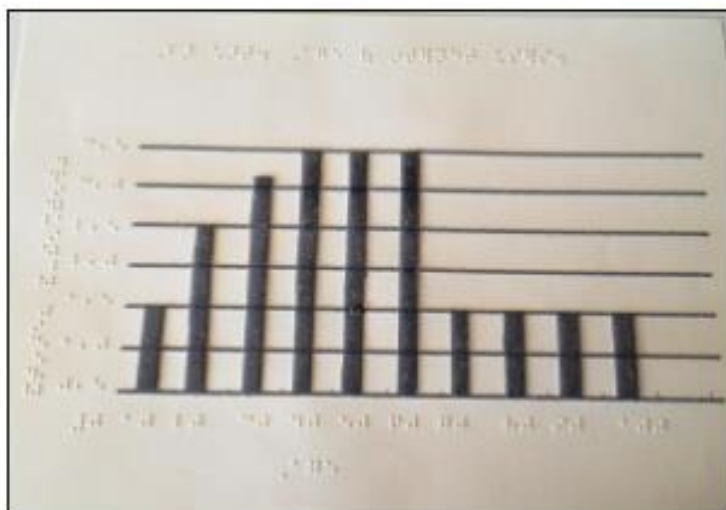
Braille version made using Perkins Braille Machine to create the lines. Braille numbers added directly using Perkins. Foam squares used to make the bars of the graph.

Large print bar chart – (left)

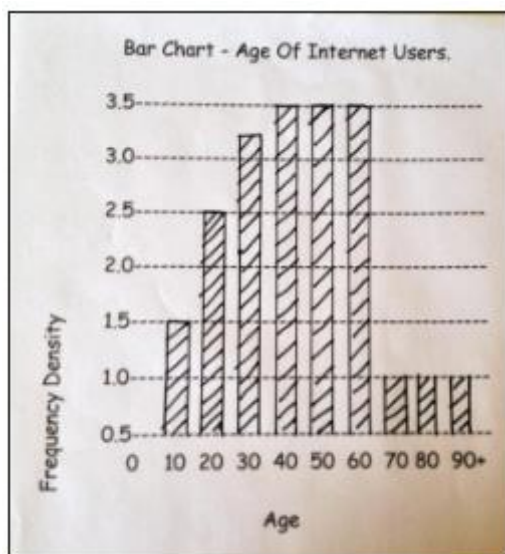


Bar chart – secondary Tactile version

On PIAF paper. Image prepared on PIAF paper and then passed through a heat machine (PIAF machine) Braille added directly onto paper.



Large print bar chart



Formatting in Braille on iPad and iPhone

Source: Scott Erichsen via ozbrl

In iOS 16.4, we can now read text formatting in braille. This is most easily noticed in the Books app. To enable it, go to braille settings in VoiceOver settings, and enable Text Formatting. You'll now see any italics, bold, etc in your book. This works with apps that present text in a page format, not separating formatting into different elements.

Kindle does not appear to show the text formatting to VoiceOver, only the plain text.

Safari and other apps put differently formatted text in a different element on the page.

So for braille readers who like to see formatting, we now have this option. If you don't like it, you can keep it disabled and not worry about it. But if you would like to use it or at least see how it works.

Happy reading with formatting!

Active Victoria – Kids voucher program

Source: Get Active Victoria

Eligible children may receive up to \$200 to cover the costs of sporting membership and registration fees. Applications are now open.

To be eligible for a voucher your child/dependent must be:

- aged 0 to 18 years
- a resident in Victoria
- named on a valid Australian Government Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- named on a valid Australian Government Medicare Card.

You can apply for more than one voucher if you have more than one eligible child. You can apply for multiple children on the one application.

Apply for your voucher and present it to your activity provider when you register or pay for your child's membership and any related uniform equipment. They will reduce the fees up to the value of \$200! Application can be made through the [Get Active Victoria website](http://www.getactive.vic.gov.au).

Monash Sensory Science Exhibition – Autoimmunity

Source: Monash University

Monash University invites members of the blind, low vision and diverse needs communities to our Sensory Science Exhibition & Discovery Day at Monash University. Enhance your life through discovery. Learn about autoimmune disease pathology from leading scientists in the field through accessible multi sensory and universally accessible exhibits, including displays by Monash Assistive Technologies & Society (MATS). Topics include: celiac disease, type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and inflammatory bowel disease.

This is a free event and open to all to attend with morning tea and lunch provided.

SAVE THE DATE – more information to follow

When: Friday 30 June, 2023, 8.45am – 2.00pm

Where: G54 Learning and Teaching Building, 19 Ancora Imparo Way, Monash University, Clayton

Enquire by emailing MonashSensoryScience@monash.edu or on the [Sensory Science website](#).

Using Design to Facilitate Inclusive and Accessible Gallery Experiences for People Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision

Source: Monash University

Event Details

Date: 26 May 2023 at 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Venue: "No Vacancy" Gallery, Level 3, QV Building, 34–40 Jane Bell Lane

Members of the interdisciplinary research team associated with the "Accessible Gallery Experiences for Blind or Low Vision Audiences" project will share creative outcomes and findings from their ongoing research partnership with the Bendigo Art Gallery and Vision Australia. The research translates into a set of guiding principles designed to support accessible engagement with artworks, collections and exhibitions for people who have blindness or low vision. As part of this interactive session BLV participants are invited to engage with innovative technologies to support accessibility-focused, multi-sensory strategies.

This event is part of [Melbourne Design Week 2023](#), an initiative of the Victorian Government in collaboration with the NGV.

You can register [through the Monash website](#).

Master of Disabilities Studies Program

Source: Sue Silveira (Macquarie University and the NextSense Institute)

If you're committed to making a positive impact on the lives of individuals with sensory disabilities and you want to acquire the skills and knowledge to promote inclusive practices based on evidence, competency, empathy, and understanding, we invite you to consider applying for the Master of Disability Studies program offered by NextSense and Macquarie University for Session 2, 2023 (July) intake. This fully online course provides you with the flexibility to self-plan your studies according to your needs, whether you want to study part-time or full-time.

Detailed information about the range of units (subjects) available in the course can be found on the [NextSense website](#).

Applications close 7 July 2023.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Tanya Kysa, Graduate Studies Coordinator at student.enquiries@nextsense.org.au.

And finally...

Babies can't produce tears until at least 6 weeks old because their tear ducts are still developing after birth.