

# NDVS/SB OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

NDVS/SB provides individualized services and resources to infants, children, and adults with visual impairment to empower them in achieving their goals.

## These Are a Few of *Summer* Our Favorite Things ... *Edition*

Our Regional Coordinators are full of good advice. Here are their suggestions to make your summer fun and full of learning!

### IDEAS FOR FAMILY FUN

#### **Mary Verlinde:**

- \*Take walks and talk about your environment.
- \*Explore sensory and tactual learning by playing with a water table or sandbox.
- \*Read books!

#### **Cindy Williams:**

- \*Go out in the community.
- \*Cook and measure to work on math skills.

#### **Kathy Grzadzielewski:**

- \*Explore, touch, taste, and do!
- \*Experience and describe the world around you.
- \*HAVE FUN!

### favorite resources

FAMILYCONNECT

WONDERBABY

CVI NOW

PATHS TO LITERACY

PERKINS

THE ECC AND ME

## Any other advice?

### RELAX, TAKE A BREAK, AND ENJOY THE SUMMER!



# REVOLUTIONIZE THE WAY YOU READ: NEW TECH PRODUCTS FROM APH

There are some exciting new tech devices on the horizon from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Read on to discover how APH is changing the way students who are blind or low vision read text, decipher graphics, and learn – today and into the future.

## The Polly

The Polly is the newest tech device from APH. The Polly uses games to teach students



uncontracted or contracted braille. Teachers can create their own lessons for students or use the online portal, Helios, to supplement their student’s braille curriculum. The Polly weighs just over 2 pounds and is smaller than a laptop, making it ideal for little hands. The device is white and purple with black accents. Polly users can provide input using the standard 6-key braille keyboard, the world’s first digital braille slate, or with the navigation keys. Output can be consumed via the two large braille cells, the standard 6-cell braille display, and the speakers. The Polly also vibrates to provide indicators. The Polly can connect to Wi-Fi and is also Bluetooth-enabled. It has two USB ports, an Ethernet port, a repeat button, and a volume control. A stylus is included to be used with the digital slate.

While the Polly does work without being connected to the Internet, it is recommended that it is connected to a Helios account to use it to its full potential. The Helios website includes lessons that reinforce spelling and vocabulary through short stories and games. A student’s progress through the lessons will only be saved if you are logged in to a Helios account. Instructions to set up an account can be found in the Quick Start Guide that comes with the Polly (or found on the [APH website](#)). By setting up an account, teachers can also view performance and usage reports, manage instruction, and assign homework. More than one learner can be attached to each Polly device and more than one Polly device can be attached to each Helios teacher account.

Two songs by Jack Hartmann, “The Braille Alphabet” and “Braille Alphabetic Word Signs” are also included in the Polly and can be used to reinforce braille word signs.

The Polly does not have a battery, which means it must be plugged into the wall outlet when in use.

If you would like to try the Polly with your student or child, reach out to Lilly Mankie ([lmankie@nd.gov](mailto:lmankie@nd.gov)) or Emily Stenberg Brown ([estenberg@nd.gov](mailto:estenberg@nd.gov)) to request to borrow one from NDVS/SB. Or, you can purchase one from [aph.org](http://aph.org).

Read about more new tech products from APH on our website [here](#).

*You're Invited!*

... TO OUR  
ELEMENTARY  
SUMMER  
PROGRAM!  
DETAILS ARE  
BELOW

A poster for the 'All Together Now' Elementary Summer Program 2023. It features two children carrying a tray of books, a dog logo for NDVS/SB Golden Guides, and registration information. The text includes: 'NDVS/SB students are coming together this summer! Join us to experience fun adventures &amp; stories.', 'All Together Now', 'ELEMENTARY SUMMER PROGRAM 2023', 'Where: NDVS/School for the Blind, 500 Stanford Rd, Grand Forks, ND 58203', 'When: July 30 - August 2', 'Sunday Drop-off/Registration: 4:30 P.M.', 'Family Program/Pick-up: August 2nd - 2:30 P.M.', 'THIS SUMMER PROGRAM IS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 1ST - 6TH', 'TO REGISTER CONTACT: Cindy Williams, ckwillia@nd.gov, by June 24th', and 'NO CHARGE TO ND RESIDENTS. \$250 FEE FOR OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENT.' There are also illustrations of children reading and playing.