

# PLAYFUL EXPERIENCES FOR PRE-BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

**LEGO** BRAILLE BRICKS  
series



AMERICAN  
PRINTING  
HOUSE



# Leanne Grillot

National Director of Outreach  
Services

American Printing House for the Blind



# Cleveland County Schools (NC)



## Yvonne Franz

- Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
- Assistive Technology Coordinator



# Objectives

- Identify 5 Holistic Skills that children develop during play which is critical to learning.
- Identify 5 Characteristics of Playful Learning Experiences.
- Observe students engaged in play-based learning activities using LEGO Braille Bricks.
- Discriminate 3 types of pre-braille activities: manipulation, orientation, and constellation.





# **HOLISTIC SKILLS**



# Cognitive

- Concentration
- Problem solving
- Working memory
- Flexible thinking





# Creative

- Coming up with ideas
- Transforming ideas into reality
- Ok with ambiguity
- Exploring possibilities
- Identifying the best solution





# Physical

- Physically active
- Understanding movement and space
- Developing spatial understanding
- Nurturing an active, healthy body





# Social

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Sharing ideas
- Negotiating rules
- Building empathy



# Emotional

- Understand emotions
- Manage emotions
- Build self-awareness
- Handle impulses
- Stay motivated in the face of difficulties



# What holistic skill is identified by exploring possibilities?

1. Cognitive
2. Creative
3. Physical
4. Social
5. Emotional





# **CHARACTERISTICS OF PLAYFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES**





# Actively Engaging

- Absorbed in playing
- Actively imagining
- Mental immersion
- Resistance to distraction





# Meaningful

- Relate new experiences to something already known
- Play by imitation
- Using media, symbols and tools







# Socially Interactive

- Communicating thoughts
- Understanding others
- Sharing ideas
- Building relationships





# Joyful

- Negative or neutral emotions may be present
- Frustration resolved by breakthrough
- Power of surprise
- Thrill of the unexpected







# Iterative

- Trying out possibilities
- Revising hypotheses
- Discovering the next question





# Which characteristic of playful learning experiences is described as mental emersion and resistance to distraction?

1. Actively engaging
2. Meaningful
3. Socially interactive
4. Joyful
5. Iterative

# APH Hive ([www.aphhive.org](http://www.aphhive.org))





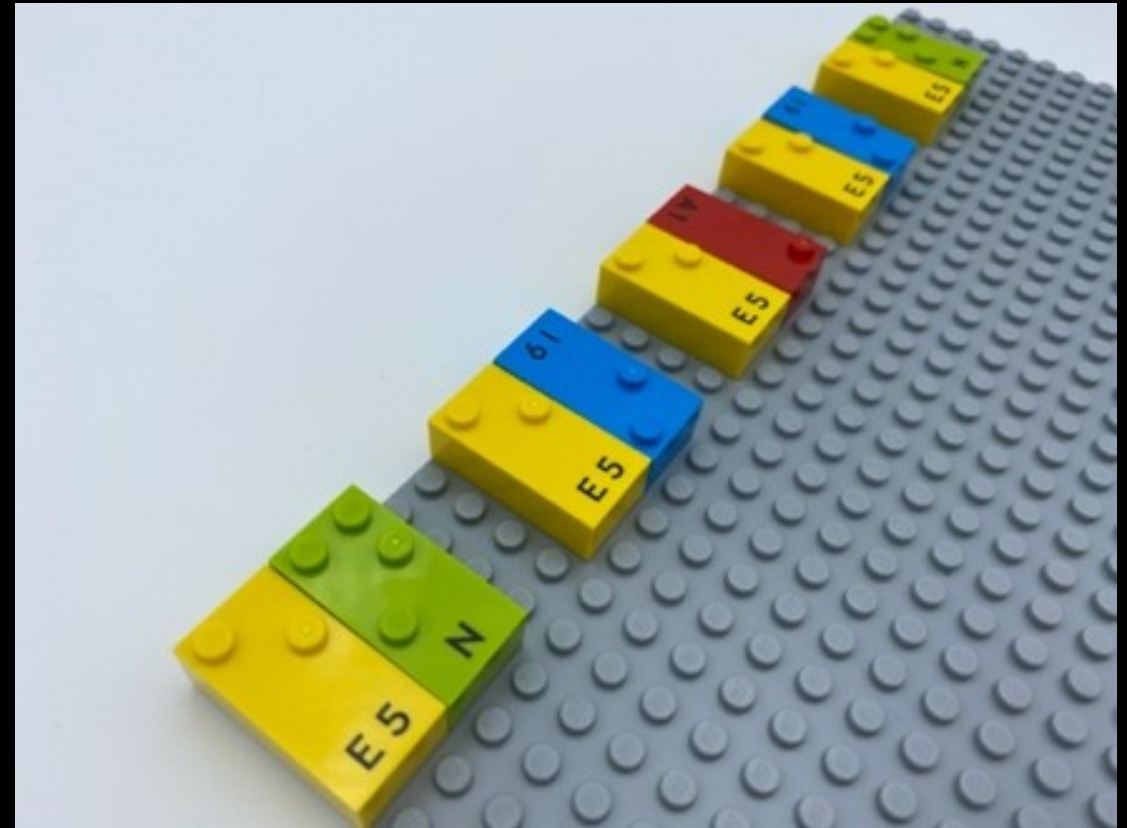
# PRE-BRAILLE ACTIVITIES





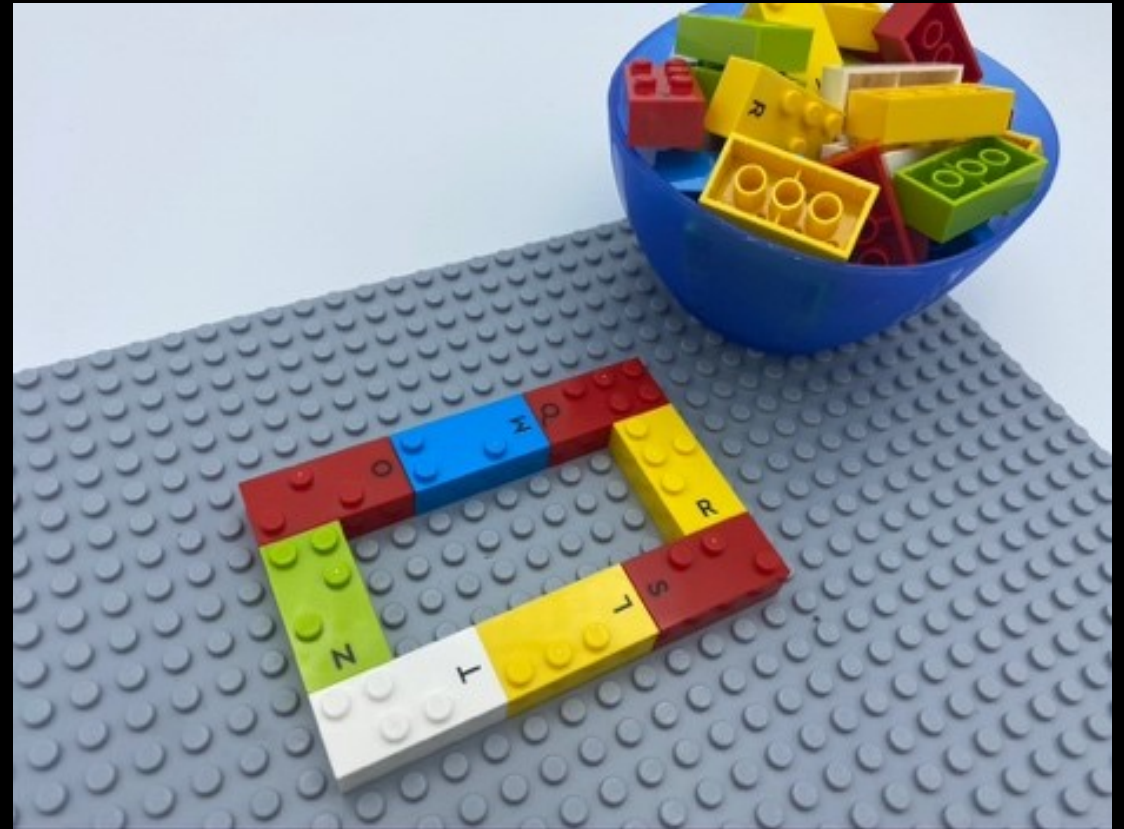
# Manipulation

Discover and get used to the bricks, learn how to handle, assemble and put them on the base plate.



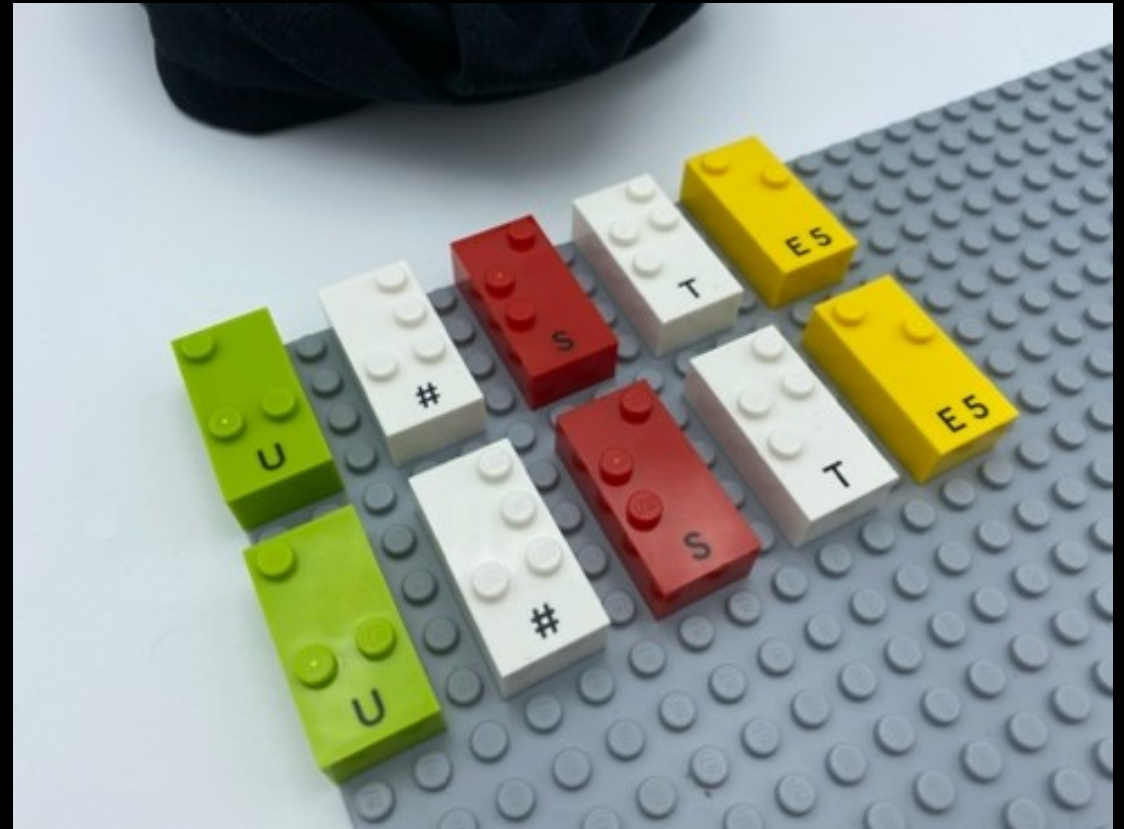
# Orientation

Learn how to position the bricks on the base plate and be aware that their orientation is important.



# Constellation

Discover the braille cell and how studs are arranged in two columns. Learn how to differentiate the studs.







# **PLAY-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES**



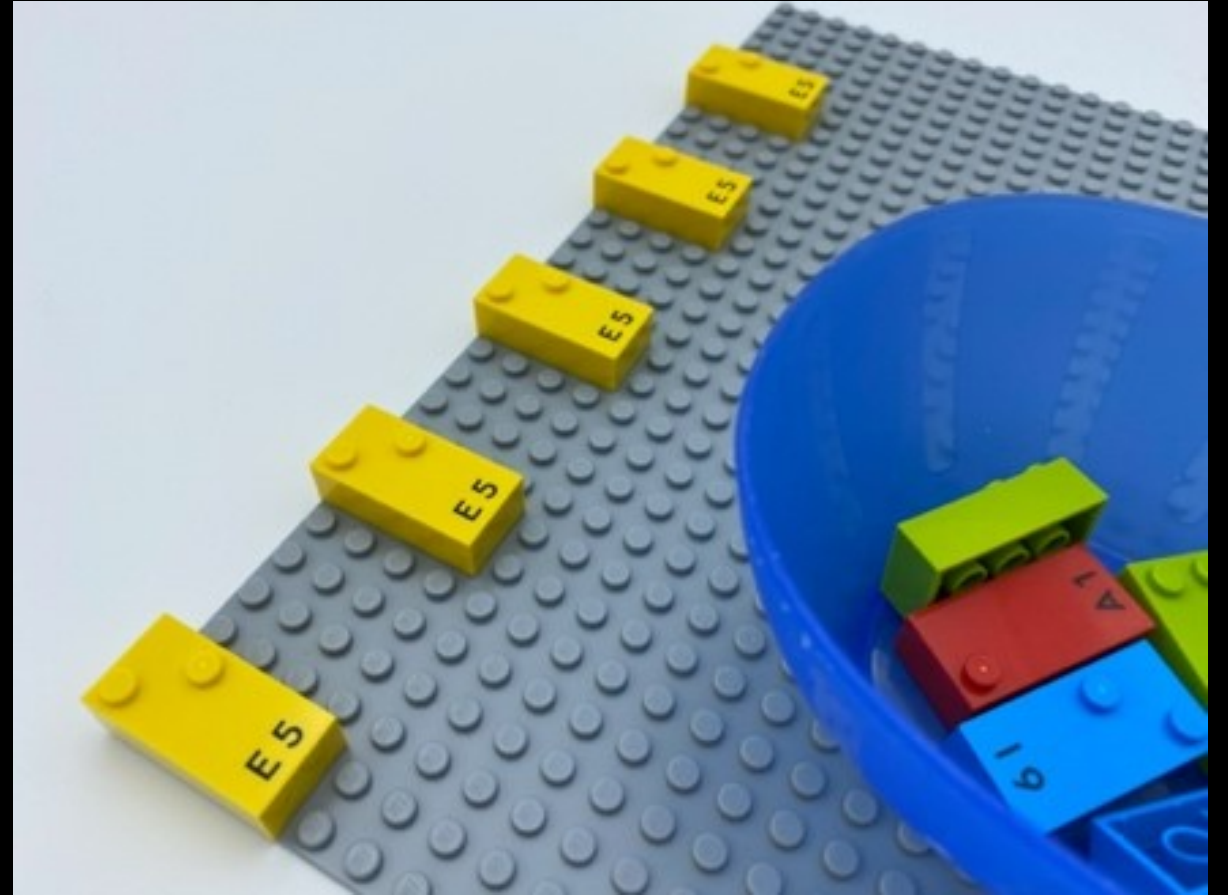
# Feed a Caterpillar - Manipulation

- Materials
  - ✓ 10 random bricks
  - ✓ Bowl
- Holistic skills
  - ✓ Physical
  - ✓ Cognitive



# Find a Friend - Manipulation

- Materials
  - ✓ Base plate
  - ✓ 10 random bricks
  - ✓ Bowl
- Holistic skills
  - ✓ Physical
  - ✓ Creative
  - ✓ Cognitive



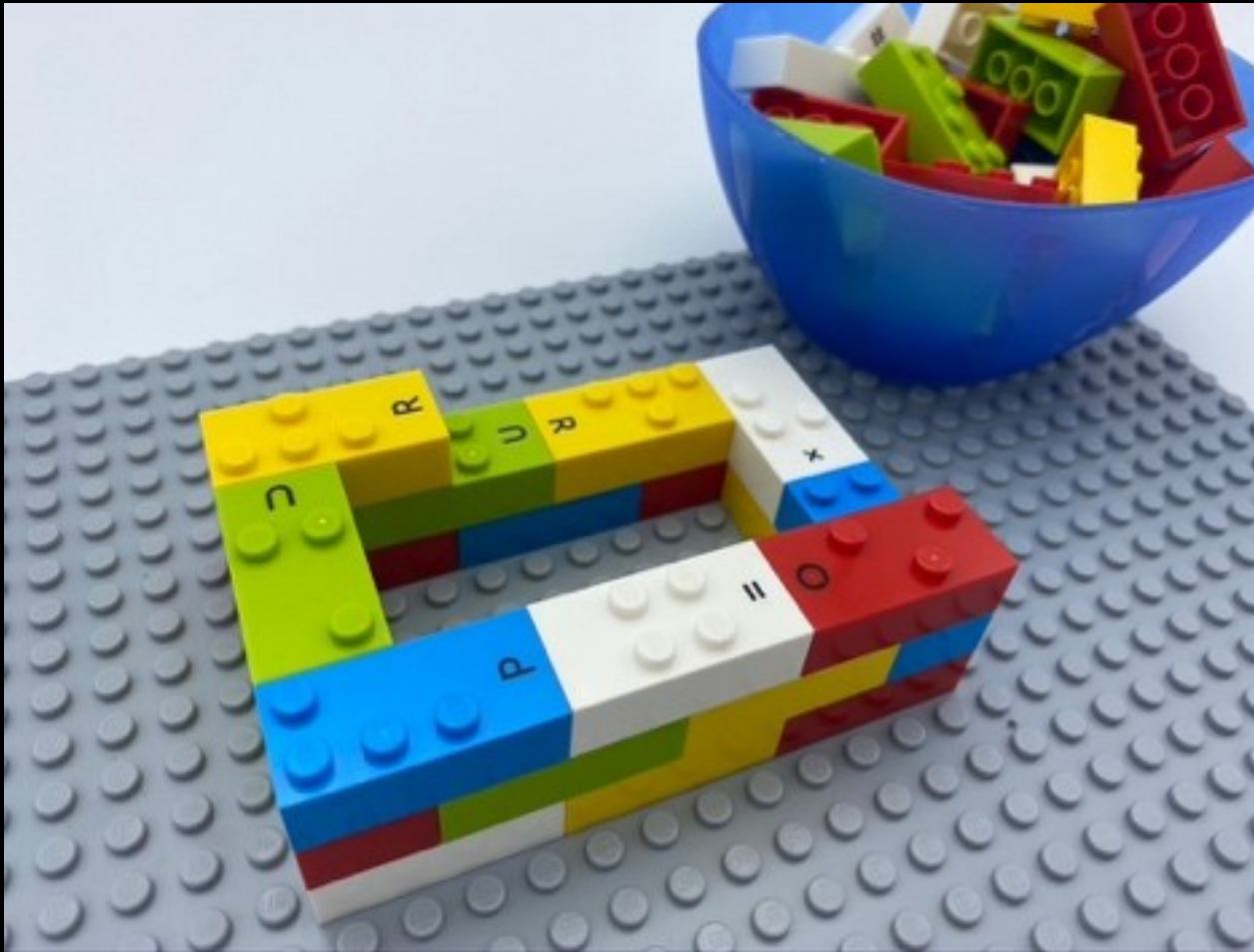


# Manipulation Ideas

Please share your ideas in the chat!



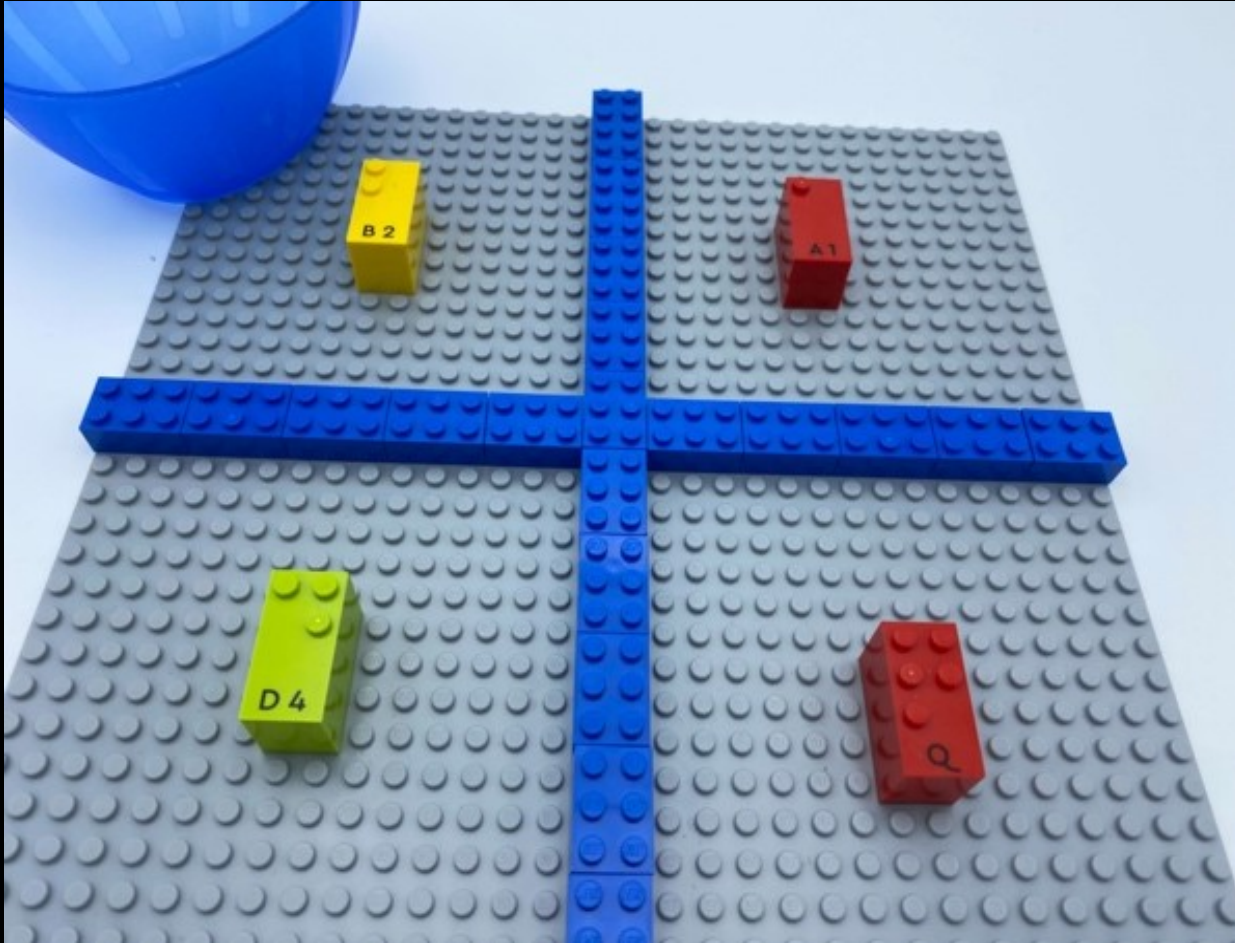
# Build a Rectangle Tower - Orientation



- Materials
  - ✓ 1 base plate
  - ✓ 48 random bricks (+3 studs)
  - ✓ Bowl
- Holistic skills
  - ✓ Physical
  - ✓ Creative
  - ✓ Cognitive
  - ✓ Emotional
  - ✓ Social



# Park the Car - Orientation



- Materials
  - ✓ 1 base plate
  - ✓ 4 letter bricks pairs: B, Q, A, D
  - ✓ 16 random braille or classic bricks
  - ✓ Bowl
- Holistic skills
  - ✓ Physical
  - ✓ Creative
  - ✓ Cognitive
  - ✓ Emotional
  - ✓ Social





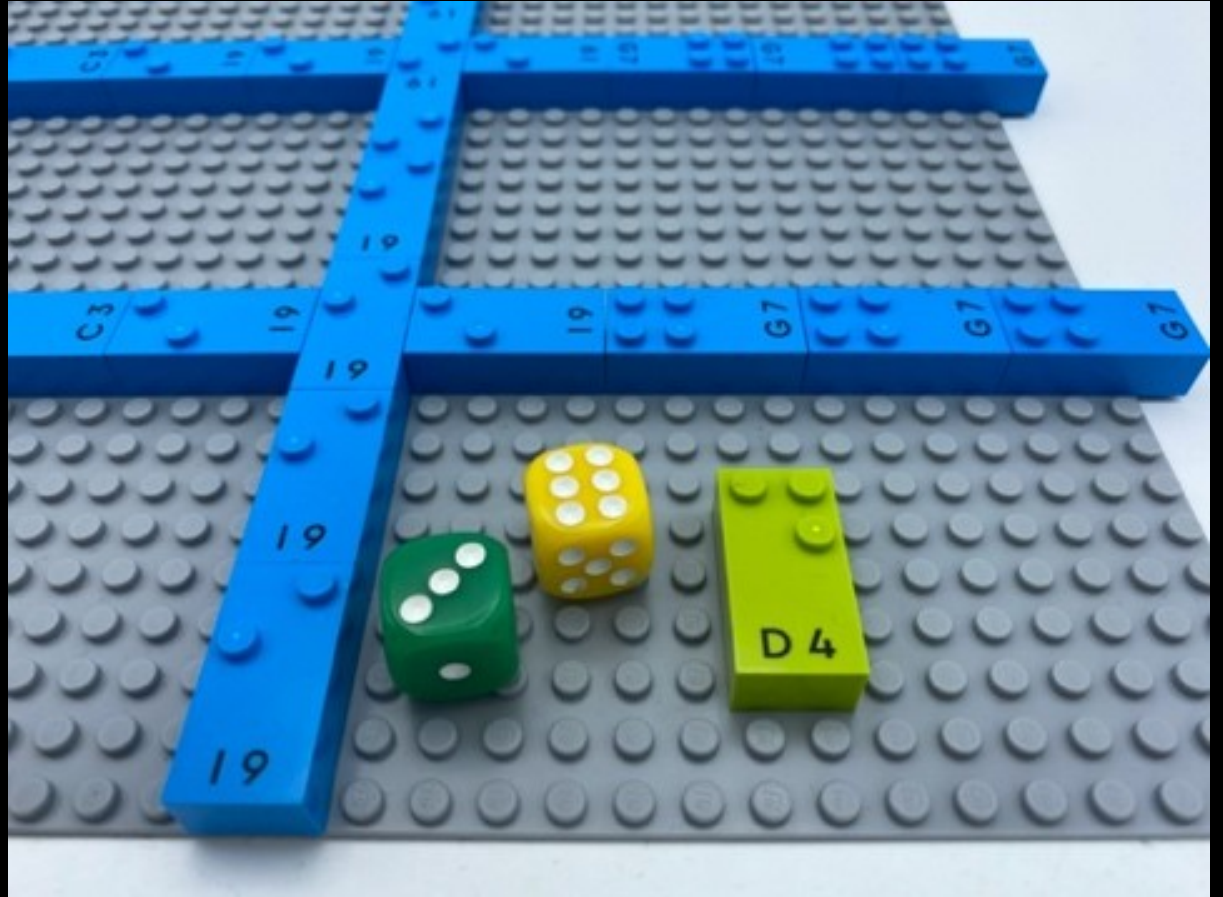
# Orientation Ideas

Please share your ideas in the chat!



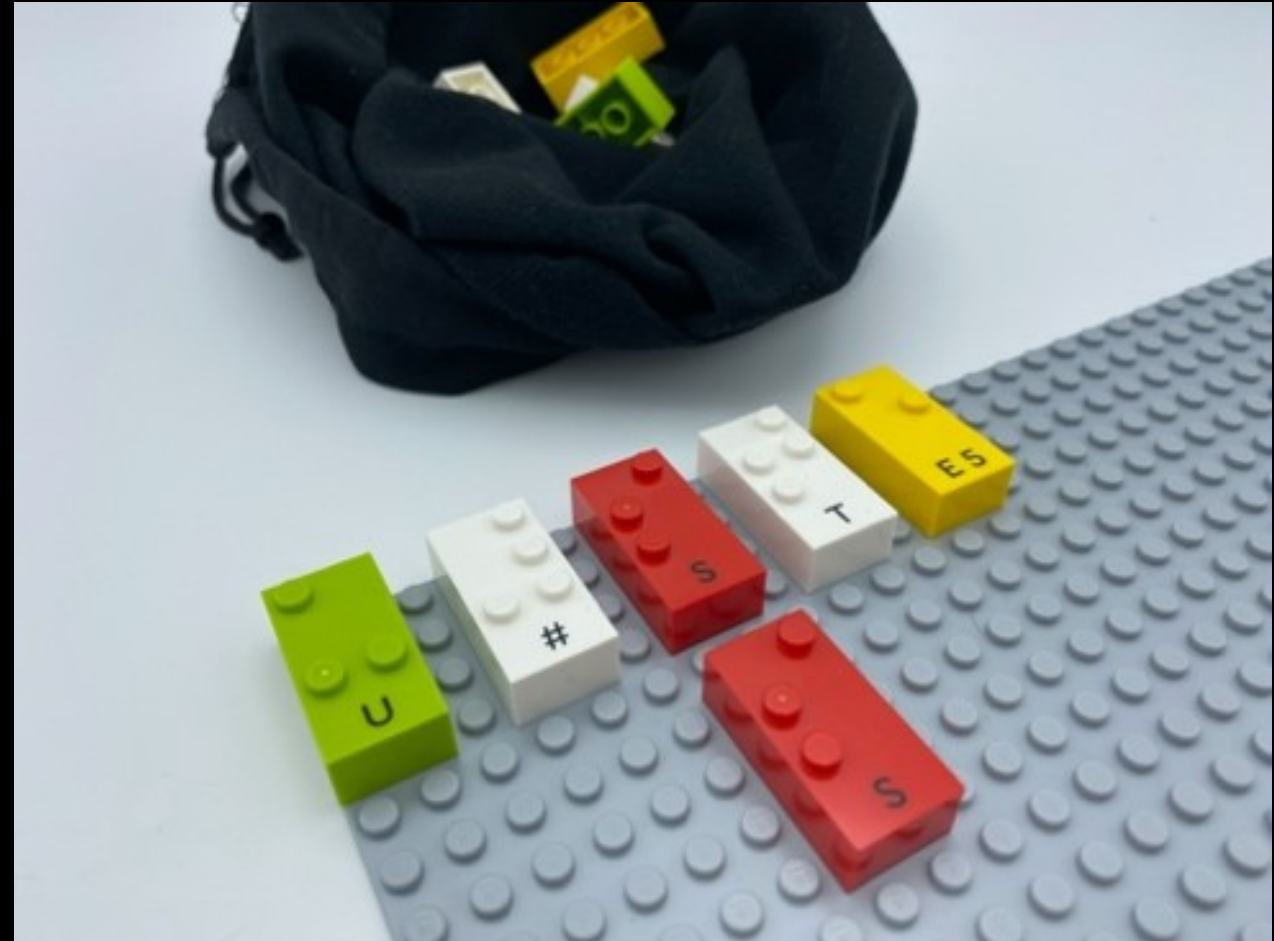
# 6 Car Parking Lot - Constellation

- Materials
  - ✓ 1 base plate
  - ✓ All bricks
  - ✓ 2 dice
- Holistic skills
  - ✓ Physical
  - ✓ Creative
  - ✓ Cognitive
  - ✓ Social



# Twin Friends - Constellation

- Materials
  - ✓ 1 base plate
  - ✓ 5 pairs: S, E, T, U, #
  - ✓ 1 small bag
- Holistic skills
  - ✓ Physical
  - ✓ Creative
  - ✓ Cognitive





# Constellation Ideas

Please share your ideas in the chat!



# Upcoming Presentations

1:00 – 2:00 pm Eastern Time

- February 24, Brick-by-Brick Literacy
- March 10, More Playful Experiences for Pre-Braille Instruction
- March 17, Brick-by-Brick Numeracy

# PLAYFUL EXPERIENCES FOR PRE-BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

Presenter:

Leanne Grillot

[igrillot@aph.org](mailto:igrillot@aph.org)



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