Because Braille literacy

TACK-TILES®
Braille Systems

TACK-TILES®
Braille Systems

*means a fuller life
in any age!*

*If you teach Braille,
your job just got easier!*

TACK-TILES®

A Parent's Literacy Sampler

Dad (Kevin C.), Kevin W., Mom (Janice)

Thirteen, blind, multiply handicapped since infancy, Kevin's years of effort to understand Braille ended in failure. Drained of ideas, weary from trying, his teachers would go no further. Instruction ended.
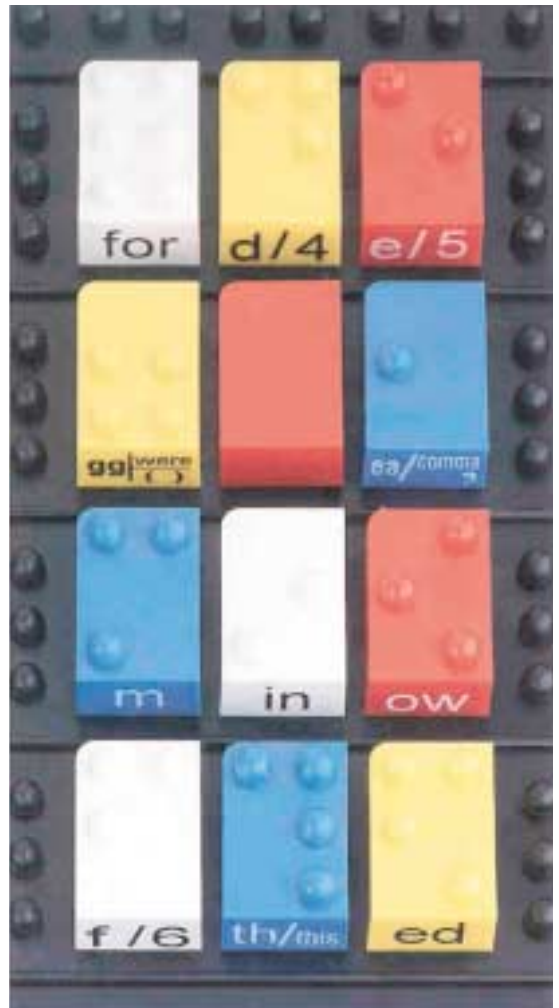
I, his father, nursed a parent's terror of Braille, that thing so unknown to my sighted experience. Yet, what harm could I do now that all effort lay abandoned? All vision of literacy forsaken?

I mutilated the toys of Christmas 1980, to reform little building blocks into Braille cells. The cells became words and sentences on the surfaces of toy boards meant to serve as front lawns. I fashioned my first TACK-TILES®.

My thirteen year old is today an adult who holds a job and lives in his own apartment far from me. He nurtures a true love of Braille far beyond his ability to use it, yet none would call him illiterate. His letters bring pleasure somehow different than his telephone call. Perhaps his pages are colored by memory of the years he worked and lit by the miracle of his success.

The little toy blocks I mutilated so long ago opened a path to a world Kevin might never have known. I wonder, at times, how much of my love of literacy would be lost if Kevin could never share it with me.

Kevin C. Murphy

Kevin Murphy

Actual Size

All symbolic languages are, by their very nature, fascinating to explore. From fascination, from exploration, we learn. TACK-TILES® probe the fascination surrounding Louis Braille's ingenious contribution to literacy.

TACK-TILES® are a unique bridge to Braille literacy, designed to provide a new route to learning, a path kind enough to include many who are presently deemed ineligible to be taught to read or write. To those whose eligibility to acquire Braille skills is unquestioned, TACK-TILES® present a smoother, shorter, more interesting path to literacy.

To those whose cognitive limits render them truly ineligible to acquire skills of reading and writing per se, TACK-TILES® offer a means of manipulating and exploring symbolic language to whatever level they ultimately show themselves capable — perhaps only to recognize initials or the spelling of a name.

TACK-TILES® Braille Systems are extremely tolerant of a student's unexpected movements. TACK-TILES® remain fixed to the slates in proper order after a fall to the floor or series of jarring movements.

Conversely, TACK-TILES® can be instantly and endlessly rearranged in the course of a lesson. Research has proved the efficacy of using TACK-TILES® in tandem with braille-embossed paper in the context of a single lesson. In most cases, however, pre-lesson preparation of printed Braille materials is greatly reduced.

Professors, student Braille instructors, experienced Braille teachers, regular classroom teachers, parents, siblings, classmates, as well as those who suffer vision loss in adulthood or late in life, and many others will discover TACK-TILES® to be an exceptional aid to learning, teaching, communication, and recreation.

The scarcest and most limited resource required to learn Braille, the teacher's time, is preserved and made more accessible to the student. TACK-TILES® have proven themselves to be unparalleled in their ability to maintain learning progress when itinerant teachers of the visually impaired must apportion limited time over great distances, and large case loads.

One does not progress from reading TACK-TILES® to reading paper. Used properly, TACK-TILES® supplement what we already have, what we already know. TACK-TILES®, embossed paper and a Braille writer are all on the student's desk at the same time, most of the time. TACK-TILES® have unique ability to capture and hold the student's interest, which can then be redirected to the embossed standard Braille. This accelerates the rate at which the student acquires the skill of reading Braille. TACK-TILES® can be manipulated in ways language needs to be manipulated in pursuit of reading and writing it.

"What a clever and time-saving idea! ..., Today one of my students mastered the alphabet on the TACK-TILES®, ...   His family rejected braille for a long time until we convinced them to give LeRoy a chance to decide which medium he would prefer. The TACK-TILES® were a great motivator and pre-cursor to regular sized braille. We are now ready to discriminate braille letters embedded in a continuous row of braille cells, etc. The TACK-TILES® provided the successful step from larger braille dots to regular sized braille dots. ..."

Each TACK-TILES® Braille System includes:

The assortment of braille symbols (not the number) varies from version to version (i.e math, music, literary) to maximize availability of the most commonly used symbols in each braille code.

- 320 individual tiles using every possible Braille-dot combination.

- 4 worksheet-sized base supports (app. 10 x 15 inches). Each holds 8 rows of 20 tiles.

- 2 palm- sized base supports (app. 5 x 7 inches). Each holds 4 rows of 10 tiles.

- Soft-sided carry-all brief.

TACK-TILES® Braille Systems are made to last a lifetime. They are almost indestructible. However, should they become lost, replacement parts are available. Call for details.

"..., they aren't just for children ..., Seniors in our Activities for Daily Living Rehabilitation Services program are finding them a useful and fantastic tool for learning basic Braille labels. Can you imagine losing your sight late in life and still wanting to use a public restroom? The large dots on TACK-TILES(R) are really the best method we've found to facilitate and speed up this learning curve."

Kerry L. Goodwin

The TACK-TILES® Braille TEASER

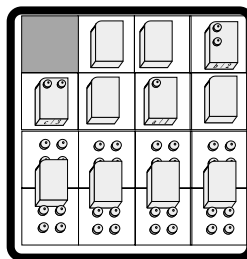**For use with your existing TACK-TILES® Braille Systems**

A new way to explore the recreational possibilities Braille can offer. Shuffle them; move them around on the TEASER. See if you can think far enough in advance to get them in order.

If all else fails ..., CHEAT!

Tack-Tiles® Braille Systems are endlessly movable.

This Teaser has parts locked out. It's set up to assure failure won't do its damage. Can the user arrange the a, b, c, blank tile in the top row? Then can s/he next arrange a, b, c, empty space in the second row?

By substituting blank TACK-TILES® for letters, the number of solutions grows exponentially. One blank renders two solutions (Blank to begin or blank to end). Two blanks render four solutions, three render eight, etc.
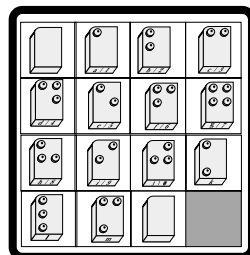
The TEASER comes with the literary Braille symbols for the letters "a" through "o," 15 tiles, one for each placement site, to get you started.

To enjoy the full advantage of the TEASER, a full set of TACK-TILES® is needed.

Patent pending

TACK-TILES® in the computer age

"The special ed teacher often requests that I design an activity to accomplish a new goal. We discuss how such an activity would work – what the keys should say, where they should be placed. I come back next week with the program on disks, and load it on the school computer. I show the special ed teacher where I put it, what the keypad should look like, and what I named it, and the special ed teacher trains the rest of the team. This system works for us …"
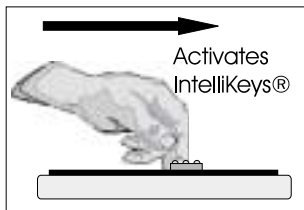

…, "The most dramatic moment with the TACK-TILES® KEYPAD came after we'd had it for about two weeks. The mother of the student with whom we used it came into class. She hadn't seen a computer keyboard in larg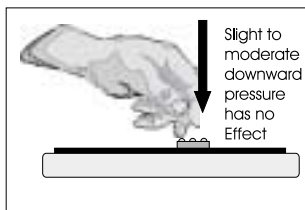e, salient Braille before (who has?), and, recognizing it as exactly what her boy needed, broke down into tears, crying, "Oh thank you, thank you! It's perfect!" We were embarrassed, but we had lumps in our throats, too."

– Holly Guinan, TVI

Designed for use with your TACK-TILES®, the KEYPAD perfectly fits IntelliKeys® adaptive computer keyboard for Mac's and PC's.

Activates IntelliKeys®

With the KEYPAD, Your TACK-TILES® become infinitely moveable computer keycaps on as many as fifty-eight sites of the KEYPAD. Using Creativity Tools from IntelliTools® you may program any, some, or all sites to open files containing words, sounds images, keystrokes, or almost any instruction a computer will follow. IntelliKeys® allows you to activate as many or as few sites as you need for your particular course.

Slight to moderate downward pressure has no Effect

TACK-TILES® for language, math, music, etc., are affixed to the KEYPAD onto movable keyclips held in place by springs. When downward pressure is placed on the TACK-TILE® for study or exploration, the KEYPAD resists unwanted keystrokes. A student can explore the Braille code on the TACK-TILE® as needed before making a choice.

TACK-TILES®, IntelliKeys® and Creativity Tools are all sold separately.

TACK-TILES® Keypad Accessories

Many software applications and teacher innovations using the TACK-TILES® Keypad can be greatly enhanced by having the entire Braille word represent a key. Inexpensive TACK-TILES® Word supports make this possible.

Access packages to use many software releases are available for download at no cost at our web site. (See back cover for URL)

Versions:

TACK-TILES® Braille Systems anticipates a need to teach in any and all Braille codes. As we went to press, eight Braille codes were available: English, French, Spanish, Italian, and German literary Braille, as well as Nemeth Braille code for mathematics, Braille code for music notation and computer Braille code.

The version ordered does not effect the price of a set. All sets contain the same number of pieces. Sets are priced identically.

A photograph of any version would appear to be almost identical to that of the English literary set on the previous page. There are, however, differences among versions. In literary Braille codes TACK-TILES® are distributed evenly among Braille symbols in use.

Non-literary sets such as Nemeth mathematics TACK-TILES® are laid out as practically as possible, i.e. fewer letters, more numbers. In music, fewer slurs make room for more eighth notes, etc. All sets contain 320 TACK-TILES® representing the entire Braille code for that Braille embodiment. All are marked with indicia signifying the most common usages of each Braille symbol.

More to come! Monitor our web page.
http://www.tack-tiles.com

English Literary Braille Code

Nemeth Braille Code for Mathematics

Braille Code for Music Notation

Computer Braille Code

French Literary Braille Code

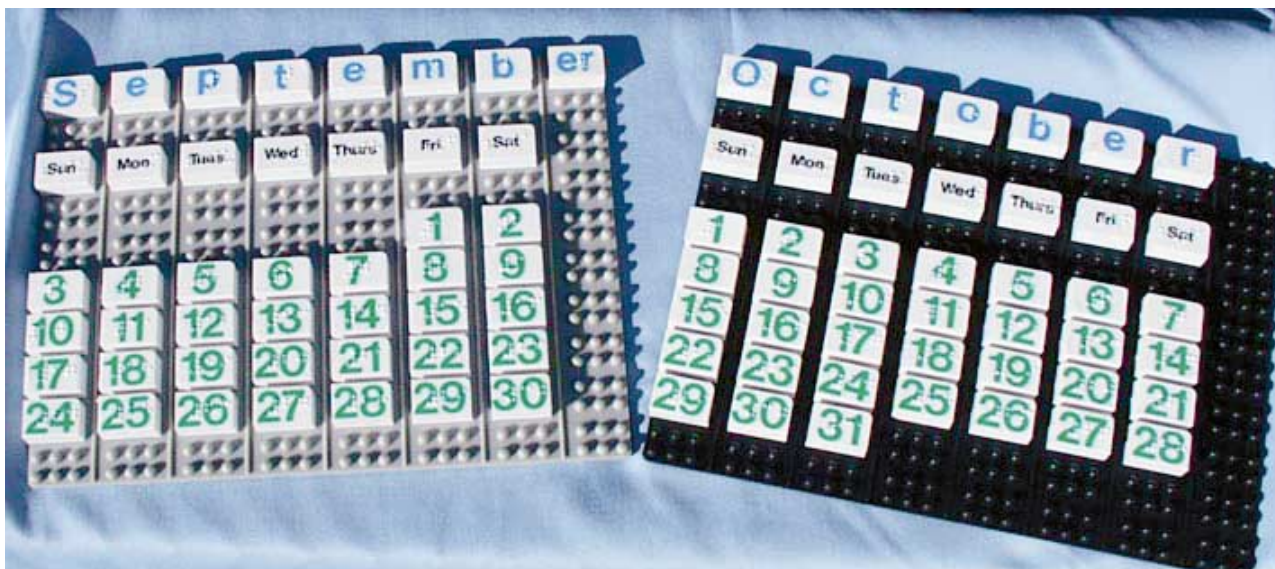*Spanish Literary Braille Code*

Italian Literary Braille Code

German Literary Braille Code

The TACK-TILES®   Calendar Kit

Timely interaction among sighted   and visually impaired learners

**Large print letters accompany standard Braille!
Each of the two support slates is magnetically backed to allow   mounting of calendars onto refrigerators, steel doors, file cabinets, steel work surfaces, etc.**

The TACK-TILES® Braille SystemsCalendar set allows construction of any two consecutive months simultaneously.

Seven full-cell TACK-TILES® are included to emphasize important days or dates. One may be placed under the "Tues" TACK-TILE®, for instance, to mark the day the itinerant Braille teacher visits the school. Perhaps, an entire week might merit highlighting?

Five blank TACK-TILES® are also included to permit learning to become more imaginitave. Teachers can introduce marvelous ways to modify these by the simple expedient of double-sided tape. Perhaps some cloth with a bit of pine scent to herald the coming of Christmas, or a wrapped candy at Halloween.

PRICES:

 VISIT: **Internet:** http://www.tack-tiles.com/HTMs/Order.htm

Contact:

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Plaistow, NH 03865 U.S.A.

WRITE:

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Plaistow, NH 03865-0475

CALL:

Toll free U.S. and Canada
1-800-TACK-TILE (822-5845)
(603) 382-1904

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(603) 382-1748

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