Resource List for
Teaching People with Sensory Disabilities
Social Skills and Sexuality Education

**Articles and Books:**

The Development of Social Skills by Blind and Visually Impaired Students ...
Sacks, Sharon; Kekelis, Linda; Gaylord-Ross, Robert;

Examines the social interactions of children with visual impairments. Theory and research are combined to explore how these children can be helped to succeed socially. Innovative practical strategies are provided for educators, researchers, and families on how to assist children in the development of social skills.

Introduction to Sexuality Education for Individuals Who Are Deaf-Blind and Significantly Developmentally Delayed
Moss, Kate; Blaha, Robbie;
http://www.tsbvi.edu/Outreach/seehear/fall02/sexual-health.htm

Addresses sexuality issues in the lives of school age individuals who are deaf-blind or significantly developmentally delayed

It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health
Harris, Robie H.
Candlewick Press 1994

Very clear, detailed book with a comprehensive view on the human body, puberty, relationships and sexuality. Contains frank drawing, but very appropriate for use with teens and young adults.

Sexuality Education for Children with Visual Impairments
Davies, Judith
Dalhousie University
http://www.tsbvi.edu/Education/sexuality-education.htm

Describes the learning needs of young people with visual impairment and its effect on the acquisition of social skills and sexuality education

A very handy reference manual of signs needed to teach about and discuss human sexuality in American Sign Language.

Social/Sex Education for Children and Youth with Visual Impairments, Miller, Tom; Perkins School for the Blind, Educational Partnerships

http://www.icevi.org/publications/icevix/wshops/0412.html

Provides background information and presents content areas to be covered when teaching young people with visual impairment

Socialization and the Child with Low Vision
Corn, Anne L., Professor, The University of Texas at Austin
http://www.tsbvi.edu/Education/lv-socialization.htm

Examines the issues of young people with visual impairments navigating the difficult and largely visual world of adolescence

Sexuality and Social Skills Curricula


Learn About Life is an illustrated sexual education and social skills program with straight-forward, candid graphics and simple text. Effective for students who don't understand euphemisms or veiled explanations, but need to know what's going on with their bodies, what is appropriate and how to stay safe. Learn About Life makes this task easier, for both the learner and the instructor.
Circles (Sexuality Education) Programs, James Stanfield Publishing Co.

http://www.stanfield.com/sex-ed.html

Circles: Intimacy & Relationships, Level 1 teaches relationship boundaries and relationship-specific behaviors. For example, it's okay to hug your mother, but it's not okay to hug the mail carrier. Circles: Intimacy & Relationships, Level 2 takes it one step further by showing how to apply the rules of social intimacy in more complex settings.

Circles: Stop Abuse teaches students how to recognize and avoid sexually threatening or abusive situations. Finally, Circles: Safer Ways provides current information on avoiding and treating communicable diseases and ways to protect against sexually transmitted diseases.

Social Skills Programs from James Stanfield Co.

http://www.stanfield.com/life.html

LifeSmart Curriculum
Develops the attitudes and behaviors necessary to develop for a successful transition into adulthood. Teaches job, safety, and money skills, as well as appropriate social and dating interactions.

First Impressions
Demonstrates essential everyday skills, including cleanliness/hygiene, grooming, dress, and attitude, that promote social approval and health.

Home of Your Own
Prepares individuals to get along with housemates and resolve the classic conflicts that arise when sharing living quarters.

Mind Your Manners
Demonstrates classic right and wrong ways to interact with others and gives students a basic foundation in acceptable manners.

Being With People
Teaches the essential social skills needed to promote graceful social interactions and establish positive relations with others.

Community Man
Shows students how to use community resources such as medical, police, and fire services, preparing them for independent living within the community.

Our Whole Lives is a series of sexuality education curricula for six age groups: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, grades 10-12, young adults (ages 18-35), and adults. Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Materials and Teaching Aids

Boardmaker Software, Dynavox/Mayer Johnson

The Boardmaker Software Family consists of software products that cover a broad range of communication and special education needs. They are the premier tools among special educators and speech-language pathologists.

Boardmaker® v.6
Use Boardmaker v.6 to create and print communication boards and educational materials with Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) and other pictures and graphics.

Talking Tactile Tablet; Touch Graphics Inc., New York, NY

The Talking Tactile Tablet, also known as TTT or T3, enables audio-tactile learning and fun. The TTT connects via USB to a computer. Children and adults place one of many touchable overlays on the TTT. As they explore raised-line and textured images and braille text, users can press down on any part to hear audio descriptions or to interact with programs. Touch Graphics and its partners have created educational applications and authoring tools for the TTT, and it is currently in wide use around the world. The TTT is inexpensive and very easy to use.
Teach–a–Bodies Anatomically Correct Dolls

http://www.teach-a-bodies.com/

Teach-a-Bodies® is the world class authority in providing professionals and parents with anatomically correct, instructional dolls to help break down barriers when communicating with children. Teach-a-bodies® product line features a full range of anatomical dolls, lifesize dolls, paper dolls, booklets, as well as an extensive collection of doll accessories.

Anatomy Models for Sex Education, Jim Jackson & Company

http://jimjacksonanatomymodels.com/index.html

These models can be essential for teaching all populations, especially those with visual impairment and/or developmental disabilities. The models are life-size replicas of male and female genitalia, made of natural latex and filled with polyester fiber for a soft, realistic feel.


A film for deaf and hard-of-hearing women of all ages, parents of deaf women, healthcare providers, educators, interpreters and anyone who cares about deaf women’s health.

Maxi Aids Blind and Low Vision Store


Maxi Aids has numerous low and high-tech assistive devices for people with low vision and blindness.

JAWS for Windows; Freedom Scientific

http://www.freedomscientific.com/jaws-hq.asp

JAWS is a screen reading software that assists blind computer users by reading commands and information from computer screens aloud.
American Thermoform Corporation products

http://www.freedomscientific.com/jaws-hq.asp

ATC sells Braille embossing printers to produce Braille documents and Thermoform machines that can produce a raised-line pictures, diagrams and maps.

Wikki Stix – One-of-a-kind Creatables

http://www.wikkistix.com/

Wikki Stix are a great, multi-purpose tool for creating tactile pictures and representations for low vision and blind learners.

Commonly available materials to use in adapting materials for people with sensory disabilities:

Laminating machine and plastic sheets to create reusable flip cards

Hook and Loop Tape (e.g. Velcro) and Nyloop fabric for use as easily changeable display board, making vocabulary games, etc.  (http://www.lockfast.com/hookandloop.html)

Zoom function on copy machine to make large-scale pictures or large-print cards

Bright-colored construction paper to make visually striking, high contrast signs, flip cards, etc.

Large, dark markers for quick signs, flash cards, drawing, etc.

Digital camera for photographs for use in instruction; easy to print, save and manipulate

Your imagination!

Resources reviewed and recommended by Jim Witmer, LICSW
Deafblind Program
Perkins School for the Blind
March 2014