

INTRODUCTION

This book of drills was intended to accommodate students who are in a classroom setting and have varied skill levels and learning needs. The teacher can easily keep up with all students within a group setting who can be simultaneously working on the same page while performing separate learning activities. The book will serve three different purposes and can be used twice for the same student as his or her skills increase to a new level.

SCANNING exercises are designed so the student can practice looking for one specific word while ignoring all the other writing on the page. Scanning exercises can be used to teach proper hand position, good tracking skills and will increase the student's ability to quickly recognize the specific words scanned through repetition. Scanning exercises may also increase confidence by creating successes without the fatigue and frustration that new Braille readers experience when trying to decipher entire sentences.

THE CONTRACTED BRAILLE sections offer gradual introductions to all the alphabet whole words, 12 of the short form word signs and two whole word signs in a simple and non-threatening manner that is designed to encourage a desire to move towards learning advanced Braille. Each page of a scanning word is immediately followed, on the following page, by its contracted counterpart. It is recommended that the initial reading of each contracted word be introduced by scanning the page

for *only* the new contracted word while disregarding all other writing on the page prior to attempting to read the entire page of Braille.

The basic introduction to contracted Braille is intentionally simplified, as it is designed to create a thirst for learning. Therefore, this book makes no provisions for the rules of contracted Braille and it may be prudent to advise students against attempting to add suffixes or change words to plural on their own beyond the specific learned words in this book without further training.

READING SKILLS

After the student has completed the un-contracted and the contracted scanning exercises, the entire book can be re-used to practice reading skills. Each page contains six or seven sentences that use as many new contractions as possible. The sentences contain only those contractions that have been learned up to the present page so it is not mandatory to complete the book prior to practicing reading whole sentences. Single spacing is gradually introduced over many pages by narrowing the space between sentences and by increasing the number of sentences that are single-spaced until the final pages become entirely single-spaced. The single-spacing remains at a simple, non-threatening level throughout the entire text and is not intended to produce single-spaced reading proficiency.