

# SIGHTLESS CHILDREN CLUB



March 2008



## THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS & CONCEPTS

All Concepts begin with relationships. A blind child will have difficulty developing accurate ideas about the world unless she or he has at least one trusting, significant and meaningful relationship to serve as a center from which to explore the world in gradually widening circles. There are a number of categories of concepts. An understanding of these will positively effect a child's life experience. These include:

- how the world works (routines, what things are used for, cause-and-effect)
- How the physical environment is arranged and how to navigate it (orientation and

mobility)

- Where things come from (the natural world and its cycles and laws)
- How things are sequenced (time, order of activities)

When a child is repeatedly involved in experiences that involve these things, concepts develop over time in a gradual way.

Equally important, and often overlooked, is the development of positive self-concepts and social concepts. If asked, "What are the most important concepts for children to learn?", anyone who has had the good fortune to know a number of children who are blind is likely to answer by stressing the importance of self concepts and social concepts.

All children who grow up with positive self-concepts, whether they are blind or not, enjoy a better quality of life as adults. They view themselves as competent communicators in whatever communication modes they are able to use— verbal or non-verbal. They see themselves as part of a social group that accepts them for who they are. They are curious about the world around them, each in his or her unique way. The following are social and self-concepts that are particularly important:

- I can communicate my needs.
- I have unique ideas about the world
- Communication is about taking turns and sharing interests

- I belong to a family or group
- I belong to a community
- I know how to interact with people in the community in enjoyable ways
- I can contribute to my community
- The world is interesting, I can explore and learn, both by myself and with others.

We cannot teach these concepts through discrete lessons, but we can offer children experiences that help them develop these concepts, experiences that will enable them to make sense of the world and respect themselves as valuable members of the world.





Request for Grants for February went to:

Kelly Wills

Haven Hensley



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

ABIGALE BOWLING

KELLY WILLS



PRESIDENTS CORNER

Lisa Buckingham (937) 671-9171

When making a request for your child's equipment, please don't forget that it needs to be submitted 2 weeks prior to the SCC meeting. Assessment forms for your request can be downloaded from the website.

There will be an equipment demonstration at the April meeting by ULVA, you won't want to miss it.

Also bring your recipes for the cookbook to the next meeting

All SCC meeting are held every 3rd Monday of each month except for June, July, August and December.



Next Meeting  
 Monday 3-17-08  
 10 Wilmington  
 Place  
 Dayton, Ohio 45420  
 7:00 pm