

A Trip On the Bus

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The bus on the cover is meant to draw other students to engage in conversation with the Deafblind student.



The stop sign uses acrylic jewels for a little extra sparkle representing the flashing lights on the school bus stop sign. This symbol won't have meaning to the student, because he can't get close to the real one on the bus, but it will again bring others into conversation with him about their knowledge of buses.



My husband, out of aluminum and a couple of screws, made the bus cue. He sanded it well and painted it bus yellow. This cue has a wonderful metallic feel/ it has the same cool, smooth touch as a bus. The temperature of it could be changed to suit the weather and help anticipate what the bus might feel like ñ for example put it into the refrigerator briefly if the bus is coming on a cold day.

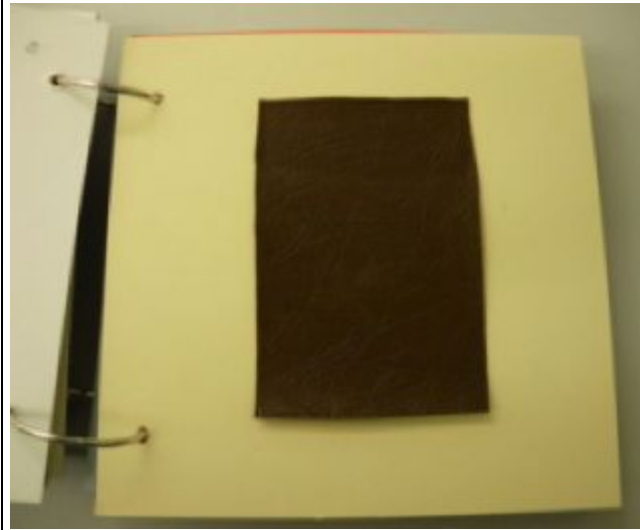


This cue takes into consideration the height at which a Deafblind student, in a wheelchair, will likely experience the outside of a bus ñ the touch and colour.



Our school district transportation department was very accommodating in providing a sample of safety belt webbing and vinyl seat cover material for the next two bus trip cues.

The webbing fastens in front of the wheelchair left. Touching this lets the student know he will be going up into the bus.

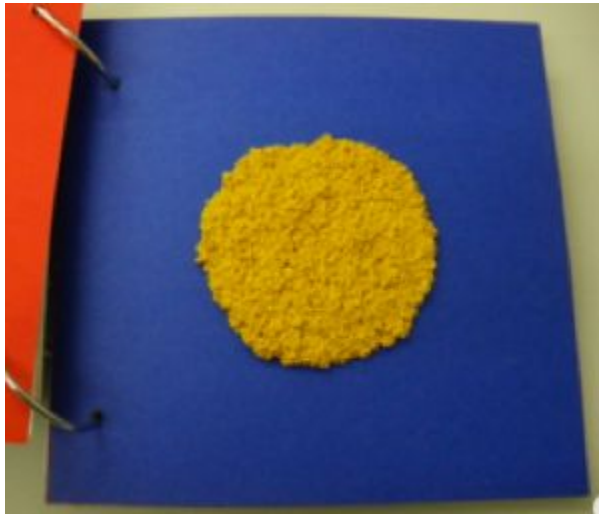


The vinyl sample, used in repairing the seats, is a standard colour and texture for all the buses. The student will recognize it to be the same as the seats inside the bus.

I can touch the seat.
It is brown and wrinkly.



The "Trip On The Bus" book is meant to stand alone, but can be combined with a destination - in this case our local community center. I visited the center in advance to come up with ideas.



The pillars outside the community centre are quite rough. With some experimentation I came up with a combination for a great



Inside the lobby of the community centre is a very large sculptured mural. I found a section of the mural that I thought would be

texture. I used fine aquarium gravel mixed with white school glue and latex paint in the colour I needed. I pressed it into a thin 3-inch disc and let it dry on a plastic lid. It takes quite a while to dry so be patient. The final product can be altered in stages if it needs to be smoother; adding thin coats of glue and paint, and allowing for drying time between coats can customize it. The gravel is a natural product so it holds changes in temperature, which I like to consider for a tactile experience.

recognizable for the student and within his reach. I asked for permission to do a rubbing of that section. In order to replicate the mural I used Fimo Clay. I rolled it out to the thickness of the sculpture, used the rubbing to make a pattern, cut it out and followed the baking directions. I used contact cement to attach pieces together then painted it to be similar to the original. NOTE: painting the clay can be a little tricky. It is best to go on line to find out how to do this so it will last. I chose to seal this item with an acrylic spray sealer to make it more durable.