

# Choosing and producing reading materials for visually impaired children



Reading Support Pack

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## **Introduction**

This pack has been produced to support families and school staff who are involved with visually impaired (VI) children.

The contents of the pack will assist in selecting suitable reading material for VI children in both KS1 and KS2.

The pack comprises the following:

- ◆ A guide to choosing books for visually impaired children
- ◆ A list of websites and contacts for books and storytelling for visually impaired children
- ◆ ◆ A font size comparison chart for use when selecting books

## Choosing reading books for visually impaired children

How can you ensure that reading and sharing books is made easier for visually impaired children?

Some children with visual impairment may need larger print books in order for them to enjoy reading and sharing books.

It is not, however, only the size of the font that may make reading easier. The following additional points should also be kept in mind when selecting books for children who find it hard to read print.

### Make it large enough

The font size will generally need to be at least 18 point. Sometimes 24 point or larger may be needed.

This is 18 point.

This is 24 point.

This is larger!

### Keep it simple

The style of font should be plain and simple, for example ... Arial, Tahoma, Verdana or Comic Sans

Like this

...



Ladybird is on the leaf.

NOT like this...



The ghosts were happy in the attic, haunting the nights away.  
And when the family held a house warming party Jago's friends  
all begged to stay the night!

The ghosts were happy in the attic, haunting the nights away.  
And when the family held a house warming party Jago's friends  
all begged to stay the night!



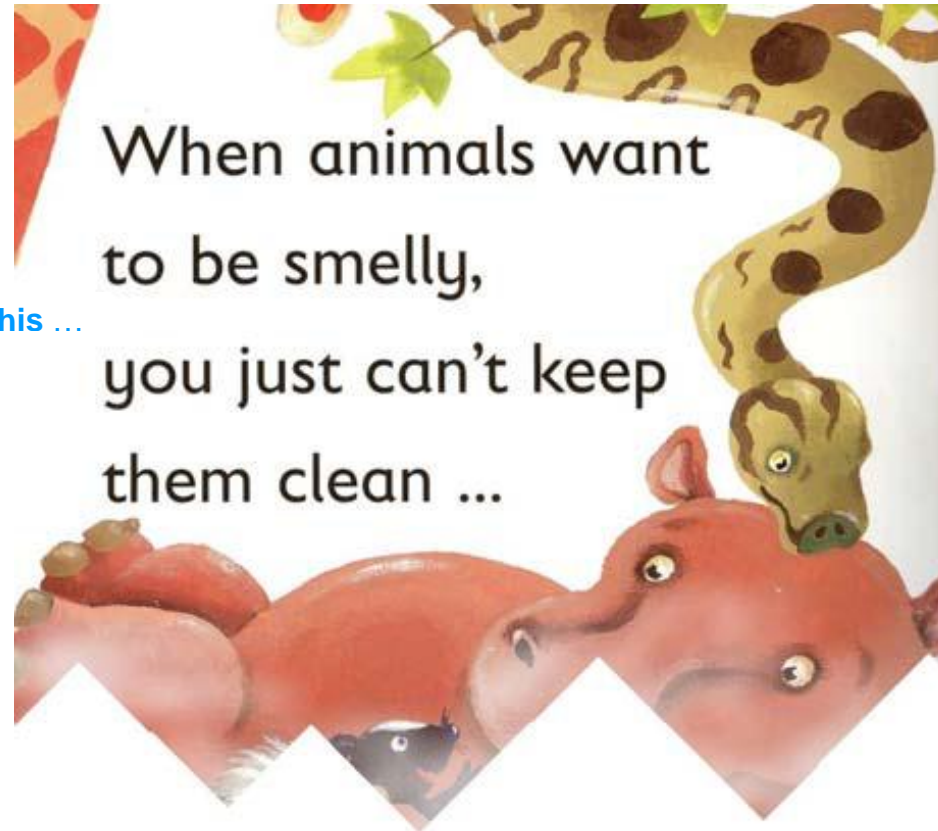
### Get EVEN!

Letters and words should be spaced evenly, with not too much text on each page.

### Be BOLD!

The definition of the font should be clear and bold.

Like this ...



### SPACED OUT!

Extra space between lines and paragraphs will make reading easier.

### Keep to the LEFT!

Left or centrally aligned texts are easier to read.

### Keep STILL!

Text that is positioned in the same place on each page is helpful to some children.

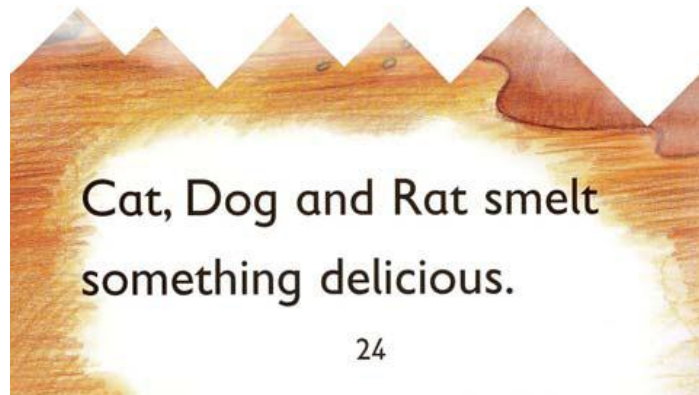
### Maintain CONTRAST!

Dark text on a light background is best, although light text on a dark background, such as **yellow on black** may also be suitable.

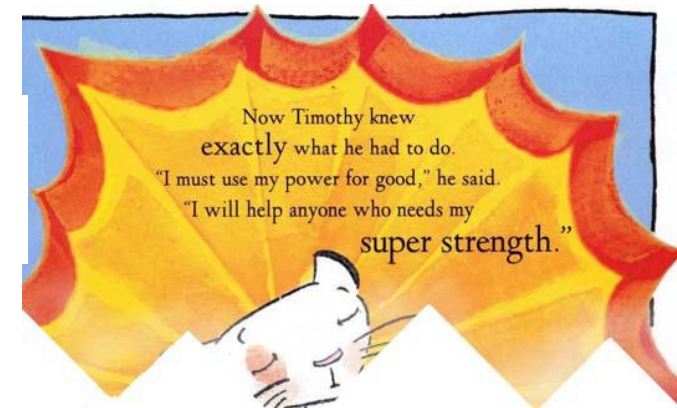
## Keep CLEAR!

Text should NOT be printed over illustrations or patterns

Like this ...

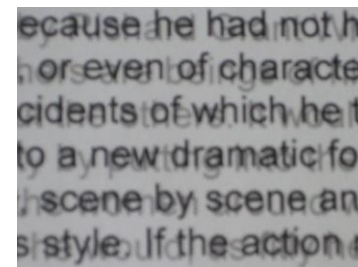


NOT like this ...



## Feel the QUALITY!

Paper quality needs to be good – too thin and see-through means print from the next page may show through and confuse the reader.



## Avoid glare ...

## Stay on the MATT!

Paper surface should be matt finish to avoid glare.

## Websites and contacts for books and story telling for visually impaired children

<a href="http://www.nlib.org.uk">www.nlib.org.uk</a>	<p>The National Library for the Blind – the library loans large and giant print books across all key stages, fiction and non-fiction. Membership and postage is free, 6 books may be borrowed at one time for up to 3 months. Vast on-line catalogue.</p>
<a href="http://www.livingpaintings.org">www.livingpaintings.org</a>	<p>Living Paintings Trust – a library of resources for members to borrow. Materials aim to give VI people a greater understanding of visual images. Resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Touch &amp; Sound packs. Thermoforms for children to feel and cassettes about primary topic areas.</li> <li>• Living picture books – a selection of books in Normal, Easy print and Large print.</li> </ul>
<a href="http://www.storynory.com">www.storynory.com</a>	<p>Audio books to download and audio books</p>
<a href="http://www.bagbooks.org">www.bagbooks.org</a>	<p>Bags containing a storybook and accompanying multi-sensory items.</p>
<a href="http://www.harcourt.co.uk/primary/literacy/specialneeds">http://www.harcourt.co.uk/primary/literacy/specialneeds</a>	<p>Rapid reading scheme – includes books with simple text on clear backgrounds speech recognition software</p>
<p><a href="http://www.clearvision.org">www.clearvision.org</a> Tel: 0845 702 3153</p>	<p>Clear Vision – lends tactile books and dual format Braille / print books for adults and children to share reading. Titles suitable for pre-schoolers, children learning to read and newly fluent readers.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.calibre.org.uk">www.calibre.org.uk</a> Tel: 01296 43 23 399</p>	<p>Calibre Audio Library – has a wide choice of full length books for children and young people on cassette and digital format available to borrow.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.nbcs.org.uk">www.nbcs.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Custom Eyes Books – part of the National Blind Children’s Society, produce customised large print books to individual requirements for visually impaired children.</p>
<p><a href="mailto:Karin.thomas@bbc.com">Karin.thomas@bbc.com</a> <a href="mailto:sammy.humphries@bbc.com">sammy.humphries@bbc.com</a></p>	<p>Galaxy Children’s Books, Chivers Press. All books are in Times New Roman, point 18 font. Email for catalogue. Also available from Halton Library service.</p>

## Comparison of font sizes – using Arial font.

**Arial style font is recommended by the RNIB and is the font style used by external examination boards when producing large print and modified large print examination papers.**

Use this chart to measure the font size in books. If you can copy this sheet on to a transparency it will be easier to use.

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 16 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 18 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 20 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 22 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 24 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 26 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 28 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 30 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 32 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 36 point

This is UPPER and lower case in font size – 48 point