



Braille Institute of America, Inc.
741 North Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90029

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

BrailleInstitute.org | 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553)

Or contact one of our Braille Institute locations

Los Angeles

741 N. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90029
323-663-1111

Laguna Hills

Neighborhood Center
24411 Ridge Rte Dr #110
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
949-330-5062

Anaheim

527 N. Dale Avenue
Anaheim, CA 92801
714-821-5000

San Diego

4555 Executive Drive
San Diego, CA 92121
858-452-1111

Rancho Mirage

70-251 Ramon Road
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
760-321-1111

Santa Barbara

2031 De La Vina Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805-682-6222



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1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553)



"I want to tell people how empowering it feels for me to come here and be taught everything I need to know to be independent and have a fulfilling life."

– Antonio S., Braille Institute Student

Since our doors first opened in 1919, Braille Institute services have been provided at no charge thanks to the generous support of our donors and volunteers. Most of the financial support for Braille Institute comes from bequests and individual donations from people like you. As a nonprofit organization, the impact we make would not be possible without support from our communities.

Visit BrailleInstitute.org/donate to learn more about how you can help.

At Braille Institute, our staff and volunteers are committed to providing a broad range of free services for people of all ages who are experiencing vision loss. Through our individual and small group programs, students and patrons learn new ways to do the things they love.

- Schedule free one-on-one appointments with our **Low Vision Consultants**
- Learn how to **navigate neighborhoods or the world** through one-on-one sessions with Orientation & Mobility Specialists
- **Access audio or braille books, magazines and periodicals** through our award-winning Library
- Learn **techniques and technology to help with everyday tasks** through Daily Living Skills classes
- **Celebrate life** and explore personal passions through our Arts & Healthy Living program

Whatever your age or stage of vision loss, Braille Institute has programs and services that can help. We are here to help you and your loved ones live well with vision loss.

To get more information about supporting our programs or becoming a volunteer, visit BrailleInstitute.org or call 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553).



COMMUNITIES: EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH VISION LOSS

Caregivers, family, friends and physicians can play a vital role in the success of a person experiencing sight loss. Whether you are providing medical care, emotional support or both, Braille Institute can strengthen your ability to assist a patient, friend or loved one experiencing vision loss.

COMMUNITY SEMINARS

We offer programming onsite and in the community including, but not limited to:

- The emotional impact of vision loss
- Understanding vision loss
- Sighted guide instruction
- Workplace tips to create a welcoming environment for people with a visual impairment

Additionally, our staff partners with local experts to offer free community seminars about specific vision conditions, including macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and more.

VISION CONNECT

Get in-depth information about services for people with vision loss by contacting our toll free Vision Connect service at 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553) or via email at info@brailleinstitute.org

GETTING INVOLVED

If you are looking for opportunities to volunteer, please contact our volunteer managers to help you find the perfect fit. To learn more about supporting our programs through a financial contribution, call 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553) x1238 or visit BrailleInstitute.org/donate.

To request Braille Institute brochures or referral forms visit BrailleInstitute.org/contact-us.

BIRTH – 18 YEARS OF AGE: ACHIEVING EARLY SUCCESS

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

(Call for availability)

Braille Institute's Child Development Consultants partner with families to share ideas and resources while using a play-based approach and developmentally appropriate activities to encourage infants and toddlers to safely explore their environment.

Our consultants work with doctors and educators to help families better understand how their child's eye condition may impact how they learn and the modifications needed to help them learn through play. When parents decide their child is ready for a preschool experience, our consultants work with families and community agencies to prepare for the transition from home to preschool, then on to kindergarten.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

We create a solid foundation among school-age children (ages 7-18) while strengthening independent living skills, literacy, social skills and self-confidence through carefully structured programming. Working with parents and educators, we set realistic goals based on each student's ability.

Program components:

- **Digital Literacy:** Supports the introduction of adaptive and mainstream technology through our Connection Pointe technology centers
- **Daily Living Skills:** Focuses on areas including organization, self-help and life skills
- **Focused Programming:** Gives children extended time with their peers and Braille Institute staff to concentrate on developmental milestones introduced at school and home environments. Opportunities include our Johnny Mercer Music Program (in Los Angeles and Anaheim), college awareness/career exploration, and fun recreational and cultural activities



NATIONAL PROGRAMS

We encourage school-age students to pursue braille literacy and general Orientation & Mobility skills.

Braille Special Collection: Fosters a love of reading with free age-appropriate braille books and storybook kits.

- **Dots for Tots®:** Picture books for preschool children with uncontracted braille overlays and manipulative objects
- **Top Dot™:** Helps children (ages 4-7) expand vocabulary and enrich language through original stories developed by Braille Institute's Publishing and Child Development professionals
- **Digital Dots:** Provides access to popular titles for teens through online downloads for refreshable braille devices

Cane Quest®: School-age students participate in regional events around the country to demonstrate navigation skills via special routes created to test age-appropriate Orientation & Mobility skills.

“Through Braille Institute... I was allowed to experience challenges, and that was a key learning experience that gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams.”

– Enrique M., Braille Institute Youth Program Student

The Braille Challenge®: Emphasizes the study of braille through a two-stage competition. School-age children who have a visual impairment and read braille can participate in a regional event held in communities around the United States and Canada. Top participants are invited to the National Braille Challenge Finals Competition hosted by Braille Institute in Los Angeles.



ADULTS: LIVING WELL WITH VISION LOSS

For a current schedule of classes and locations, visit BrailleInstitute.org or call 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553).

Our regional centers are conveniently located throughout Southern California. We understand, however, that sometimes it can be difficult to get to a Braille Institute regional center. So, we proudly offer an outreach program that brings our services into communities. Please call 1-800 BRAILLE (272-4553) or your local Braille Institute regional center for more information.

ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS

Individual consultations are often the first step people take when coming to Braille Institute. In these appointments, Braille Institute consultants offer recommendations to maximize remaining vision and make suggestions regarding use of accessibility tools and community resources.

Consultations include, but are not limited to:

- **Daily Living Skills:** Provides personal instruction focusing on key skills for independent living
- **Low Vision:** Makes recommendations for lighting and magnification devices. Demonstrates the latest products and devices designed to assist people with sight loss
- **Orientation & Mobility:** Teaches proper white cane techniques and how to navigate one's neighborhood or the world by working with our Orientation & Mobility Specialists
- **Technology/Digital Literacy:** Offers lessons through our Connection Pointe technology centers to master accessibility options available through adaptive and mainstream technology
- **In Home:** Gives specific recommendations during private in-home visits about adjustments that can make one's personal environment more manageable with changing vision. *(Call for availability)*

SMALL GROUP CLASSES

Students stay active and pursue their passions by enrolling in Daily Living Skills and Arts & Healthy Living classes for adults (ages 18+). Our adult programs help people live well with low vision.

Although there is open enrollment, classes rotate through a semester schedule (generally January – April; May – July; September – December).

Popular classes include (but are not limited to):

Daily Living Skills

Technology and Communication: Provides instruction focusing on specialized technology and mainstream devices, keyboarding and braille reading and writing

The Business of Living: Techniques for home management, personal management, rights and resources, and social skills

Emotional Support: Small groups cover topics including living with vision loss and general support



Arts & Healthy Living

Lectures and Discussions: Book Clubs, Peer Support Groups and topics including current events, culture, travel and more

Art: Painting, Basketry, Ceramics, Creative Writing, Photography

Music: Vocal, Instrumental and Music Appreciation

Recreation: Exercise, Gardening, Golf, Bowling and more

LIBRARY SERVICES

Braille Institute's award-winning Library serves people of all ages who have low to no vision, may be unable to read due to a reading/learning disability or cannot hold a book due to physical limitations. The library offers:

- Nearly 800,000 fiction and nonfiction books in audio and braille
- More than 65,000 books and 100 magazines available for digital download directly to your computer/mobile device
- More than 70 different magazines in digital and braille formats
- Local and national news through a free Telephone Reader Program





“Braille Institute has become a part of my life. I used to be ashamed and embarrassed to be blind, but I’m not anymore. I owe it all to Braille Institute for saving my life.”
– Adelaida O., Braille Institute Student and Volunteer



To start a journey with Braille Institute, we invite you to complete this form and mail it to Braille Institute Headquarters (741 N. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029) or visit BrailleInstitute.org to submit it electronically.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____

Male

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: Female

Are you a current Braille Institute student or patron? Yes No

Have you attended any events at Braille Institute? Yes No

Current Vision Status: Legally Blind Totally Blind

Not Legally Blind Decline to State

I am a ... Caregiver Family Member Professional Other

Please check your area(s) of interest:

I am interested in becoming a student or library patron.

I would like to volunteer at Braille Institute.

I would like to schedule a tour of one of your centers.

I would like to make a donation to Braille Institute.

Other _____

Someone from Braille Institute will contact you to discuss the next steps.