

Teaching Tracking Skills

Efficient tracking is an important component of braille reading. Strategies for teaching and reinforcing tracking, from most assistance to least, include the following:

- Initial teaching with hand-under-hand demonstration
 - Sit next to or behind the child.
 - Have the child put their hands on top of yours as you move your hands over the braille text.
 - Gradually slide your hands back from the child's hands so the child feels the braille with their own fingertips, "tickling" the dots.
 - Guide the child's hands by placing your thumb gently on top of the back of their hand and your fingers in the palm of their hand while they "tickle" the dots ([hand-under-hand technique](#)).
 - Use light pressure and follow the child's lead to determine a comfortable amount of physical guidance.
- Tracking with physical guidance
 - Tap the first line with your finger to assist the child in finding the beginning.
 - Place your index finger parallel with the bottom of the braille line, prompting the child to shape their hands into the reading position over it with the pads of six fingers touching the braille line.
 - Draw your finger (with the child's hands) smoothly and lightly across the braille line.
 - Use the across-back-down pattern to track multiple lines.
- Tracking with verbal reminders: Have the child track lines while you read. Provide occasional reminders as needed (such as "make sure you go all the way to the end" or "go back to the beginning of the line, then drop down").
- Independent tracking: Have the child track lines in an across-back-down pattern while you read.