

Resources

Birmingham Braille Course Online

The online version of the Birmingham Braille Course has been temporary withdrawn whilst it is being redeveloped. For a simple introduction to braille and the braille alphabet you may wish to try this resource:

[**Crack the Code \(PDF 224KB\)** \(/Documents/college-social-sciences/education/victar/crack-the-code.pdf\)](#)

Braille and Moon fonts

[**Braille and Moon Fonts** \(<http://www.tsbvi.edu/resources>\)](#) - links to sites with free downloads of fonts.

Steps to Independence

This online resource presents key issues and recommendations for those involved in teaching mobility and independence to visually impaired children. The content authors were Sue Pavey, Graeme Douglas, Mike McLinden, and Steve McCall of the Visual Impairment Centre for Teaching and Research (VICTAR) at the University of Birmingham. The DfES, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, OPSIS and RNIB jointly funded this research.

[**Steps to Independence webpages** \(/research/activity/education/victar/steps-independence/index.aspx\)](#)

Touch Typing Tutor

Touch Typing Tutor is a software programme which was first designed in the 1990s to assist teaching touch typing skills to visually impaired children. A short description of it is given below. Still popular, it is now available as freeware <http://epapers.bham.ac.uk/173/> (<http://epapers.bham.ac.uk/173/>)

The programme was specially designed to meet the needs of visually impaired people. For example, it provides the means to set up different colours, dimensions and fonts for the exercise text displayed, and has speech capability. These features make it possible for Touch Typing Tutor to be operated independently by the child. This program is easy to use, with a full set of touch typing exercises supplied. Additional exercises can easily be created using any text editor which is capable of writing plain ASCII files (e.g. the Windows 'Notepad'), and organised into lessons.