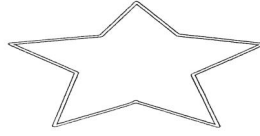


STAR TRACING



Subject: Science or Health

Objective:

- To develop a basic understanding and awareness of brain injury (specifically how some individuals may experience visual-motor apraxia following a brain injury).

Apraxia is defined as the loss of ability to carry out familiar, purposeful movements without motor or sensory impairment.

Materials:

- Copies of Star handout (pg. 22)
- Pencil for each student
- Enough mirrors for each group

Procedure:

1. Divide the class into groups of 4
2. Give each group a mirror
3. Hand out Star sheets
4. Instruct the students to take turns tracing the star using only the mirror to look at the page. Have a student stand next to the individual who is doing the activity to hold a piece of paper over their hands while they are tracing the star.) Tell the students to try to stay between the lines bordering the star and to not look at their paper or pencil while tracing. Also instruct them NOT to lift their pencil to reposition it on the paper.

Discussion:

- “How did this activity make you feel?”
- “Did you find yourself looking down at the paper or your pencil?”
- “Did everything feel like it was backwards to you?”
- “This problem is called apraxia. It is a problem involving the motor planning of muscles (it can also affect your speech).”
- “Imagine what life would be like if your brain couldn’t tell your muscles what to do. How would this affect your ability to do things, such as: feeding yourself, brushing your teeth, riding your bike, writing a letter, taking a test, etc?”

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