



## **15 years of making TACTILE BOOKS**

***Integrated technologies and handicrafts course in Tallinn university***

*The attitude towards people with special needs is the indicator of tolerance and democracy in society*

We live in a world of images, from the ground up we learn to perceive the surrounding as visualizing images. For the seer, all this is very natural, and the "text and image" quickly blend into understanding, which is greatly helped by the illustrations in the storybooks. For the visually impaired children, understanding the environment is much more complicated.

Touch or tactile books are picture books for the blind child, who can also use them to create a visualized world. Tactile observation is often understood as a touch and sensory sensation, or touch and experience.

Although the books do not represent „True“ reality then the 3D picture tries to convey reality , but it is not usually quite „correct“ However this kind of guidance through text and pictures brings a lot of joy to the child because through touch they are learning something new about their surroundings.

With the help and support of the tactile books, students learn to see and think more broadly and more generally, the aim is to make the child think, experience and create, think, imagine new ways of problem solving.

Tactile books help to develop motor skills and fantasy, teach creative expression, including the sense of beauty, and provide an opportunity to broaden the worldview through a variety of sensory channels.

A wide variety of materials can be used to make tactile books: materials that scratch,squeak, rattle. Textiles of various textures, leather, stones, feathers, cardboard, wood, metal, craft pulp, seeds, spices, dry goods - summing up the materials that most appropriately convey the sensation and imagination of a real natural object or life.

When making books, make sure that all materials used are non-toxic, not dangerously sharp, and that the objects depicted in the pictures stay firmly on the pages, and

everything that little fingers might want to grab are well hidden. Strong color contrasts help activate and develop any vision that the visually impaired child may have.

Opening and closing tying and untying different types of buttons, locks, zippers, knots in other words everything that requires the use of our fingers helps to develop the child's motor skills and give the experience of discovery and joy.

When we add to that all black and white text and Braille text and audio effects recording, we can get a unique tactile book.

Such books can also explain the contrasts that occur in nature - the shape of a very large and a very small object-creatures in certain proportions. The tactile images thus help the partially sighted / blind child to interpret and imagine the world around him. The blind child must learn to feel the world because it affects his or her future development.

Mothers-fathers, older siblings, educators, and teachers are a great help and support in helping the child to read tactile books. When reading and being active you will surely find something new and exciting about things, activities and manifestations to discuss and reflect on together, and so broadening the child's worldview.

The first tactile book "*Kits kilu karja*" was completed at Tallinn University in 2005. in August as a Bachelor Thesis by Monika Jaigi.

The student's wish was to introduce to the blind children the ways in which our ancestors were living in the traditional culture: based on a Kuusalu folk song. The idea of the book is very good, it is cleverly solved, very correct and tasteful in its implementation, the technologies represent essentially everything that was learned during the studies: sewing, crocheting, knitting, knitting, embroidery, weaving-batting, felting-needle felting .

The collaboration between the supervising teacher, the students and the teachers of Valga County was recognized on October 30, 2007. By the Ministry of Education and Research as 2006/2007. academic year`s

### ***"A worthy deed."***

The completed tactile books have been given to: Estonian Library for the Blind, Tallinn Helen School, Estonian Open Air Museum, Health Museum.

*Manual skills are part of human intelligence, good manual skills help you understand things and understand those things and what is around you.*

**Instructor: Tiia Artla**

