

RO&Ming with Lil Episode 28

Learning life skills at
blind and mainstream
schools – Joe



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Introduction to Episode 28

Welcome to Joe Stephen!

Blind – retinopathy of prematurity? retinal detachment?

Educated in Adelaide

Primary: Townsend School

Secondary: mainstream schools

- Southern Vales Christian community school

- Seaview High School – state school with VI unit for support

Tertiary: Flinders University – Bachelor of Science (Computer Science)

Adult life – Joe

- Writes software, including Jaws
- Loves woodworking
- Amateur radio & electronics
- Owner/builder license
- Renovator
- 10 kids!

Pros and cons of blind education vs mainstream

Blind School

- Learning life skills at school
- Specialised education – there is no substitute!
- Teachers can work with a whole group to find and teach effective non-visual methods
- Get to work in a group of similar students and challenge oneself
- But
- Equal opportunity doesn't mean doing things the same way
- Need to face diversity

Sighted School

- Necessary at some point
- Learn to live in sighted world
- But
- Student needs an additional aide to make adaptations
- Early integration can be detrimental, isolating
- Expectations too low
- Lack of peer network
- Hard to fit in, make friends

Making useful tactile maps

- Declutter
- Build up layers of information
- Use single lines for roads, not double lines
- Contact Leona Holloway, who works on accessible 2D and 3D graphics and models at Monash University
leona.holloway@monash.edu

Memory skills

- memory is trained – start young
- mental maths helps
- technology can subvert memory skills

How do we help kids transition from school to adult life?

- Life-skill-fest like a tech-fest (not just natter but good presentations)
- Mentoring program
- Connect parents with competent blind adults
- Transition programs
- Halfway house

Conferences earning COMS points

- SPEVI Conference – Celebrating Change!
 - 18-19 January 2021
 - <https://www.speviconference.org.au/>



- International O&M Online Symposium
 - 4-6 February 2021
 - <https://orientationandmobilitysymposium.com/>



Contact & Credits

- To offer feedback, suggest a topic, or record an episode together:
Email: lil@deverell.net Mobile: +61 418 370 312
- Links and PowerPoint slides for *RO&Ming with Lil*
www.lildeverell.net/resources/roaming-with-lil/
- Music: *Happy Stroll*, a royalty-free download from Purple Planet Music
- Graphics by Lil Deverell, with technotherapy from Erin Deverell

