

SIGHT EQUIPMENT

The RNIB's community education office describes the products available.

Products made specifically to help people with seeing problems are available from the Royal National Institute for the Blind and commercial manufacturers. RNIB sells over 500 products for use by blind and partially sighted people. Many of them are also available to organisations and individuals overseas. RNIB subsidises the prices of these products by about £1 million every year.

RNIB produces a free brochure on each of the following product categories.

DAILY LIVING/CLOCKS AND WATCHES

The range of items in this brochure is mainly for use at home.

One of the most popular items sold through this product guide is the liquid level indicator – a device for enabling someone with a visual handicap to tell when sufficient liquid has been poured into a vessel. It is supplied in an audible and a vibratory version.

There are electronic talking clocks, and Braille and easy-to-see watches. RNIB also supplies a specially designed alarm clock which vibrates. This is intended for visually handicapped people with a hearing loss.

The easy-to-see watches usually have enlarged numerals on a background of a contrasting colour and are designed for people with some useful residual vision.

BRAILLE

In RNIB's Braille product guide, there is a wide range of Braille writing equipment. This includes Braille

writing machines and labelling equipment.

MOBILITY

A wide range of canes and sticks is available from RNIB, including symbol canes, guide canes, long canes, walking sticks and spare parts.

LEARNING

The many items in this product guide are sold to both schools and individuals. There are, for example, over 40 Braille maps of various countries throughout the world, a full range of maths equipment and some measuring implements.

GAMES AND PUZZLES

The games and puzzles sold by RNIB include such well-known names as Monopoly and Scrabble, which have been adapted for visually impaired people. RNIB supplies chess boards and pieces. The white pieces are distinguished from the black pieces in some chess sets by the addition of a raised dot on top of the piece.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

A wide range of other equipment is available from outside the RNIB to help visually handicapped people. This includes low vision aids such as magnifiers, spectacle microscopes, telescopes and scanners which enlarge written text onto a television screen. There are also specially designed or adapted computers, devices which help with everyday living tasks, reading stands and torches.

Detailed information on these is included in the 'In touch' handbook (see 'Advice on sight', page 92, for details).

USEFUL INFORMATION

The Royal National Institute for the Blind
Customer Services
Department
RNIB Peterborough
PO Box 173
Peterborough PE2 6WS
Tel: 0345 023153 (local charge line)