

The following ideas are from a Utah Deafblind Conference.

Conceptual Development

Concept – a mental representation, image or idea of concrete objects as well as of intangible ideas, such as feelings. Concepts are formed by generalization through the use of all our senses. Concept development is a never ending process. There are three level of creating a concept: 1. Concrete Level, 2. Functional Level and 3. Abstract level.

Factors related to Teaching Concepts

Communication

Observation

Near to far

Consistency

Experience & Environment

Perception

Time

Skills

Skill is the execution of learned physical tasks. It is learned power of doing something competently. It is developed aptitude or ability
It is the doing

Key Points

Ensure your efforts to teach sign language / picture symbols, etc. encompass communication and the associated concept.

The challenge is to ensure that we have tools that allow us to measure the level of understanding.

Make every effort to ensure transfer of learning

Differentiate between skills and concepts and make sure they are both addressed in the education plan.

Language and communication are both important.

Make every effort to ensure that you do not rob the individual of the opportunity to think and thus to learn.

(Monaco, 1997)