

# **Assessment of prerequisite skills in orientation and mobility for transitioning to guide dog travel.**

**~ Dog guide program for blind youth ~**

**Developed by the Nazareth and Louis  
Braille Institute in Montreal**

**The following skills are related to the use of  
a guide dog during navigation.**

**Please note: This is translated from French, so some terms may  
seem unfamiliar. We have tried to clarify them, but please feel  
free to ask questions if you are unsure.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

O&M Instructor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

O&M Instructor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

O&M Instructor Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Developed by H  l  ne Gu  rette  
Orientation and Mobility Specialist

## 1. Auditory skills

	Acquired	In Progress	Needs To Develop
Detection of openings while walking in a hallway.			
Detects (auditorily) the end of a hallway.			
Localizes different sounds while walking indoors and outdoors (detects sound and localizes sound source).			
Utilizes moving parallel traffic to situate oneself and maintain a straight line of travel, while walking on a sidewalk.			
Performs accurate parallel alignments at intersections.			
Performs accurate perpendicular alignments at intersections.			
Analyzes intersections with accuracy (shape, direction of traffic, type of traffic control); a. intersection controlled by 2-way stops; b. intersection controlled by 4-way stops; c. intersection controlled by simple traffic lights.	a.		
	b.		
	c.		
Initiates street crossing at appropriate time.			
Crosses streets in a straight line while using parallel traffic to maintain a straight line of travel.			
At intersections controlled by stop signs, describes the movement of traffic: a. Identifies the street where the car(s) is(are) moving (parallel or perpendicular street); b. Describes the movement of each car (continues straight ahead, turns right, turns left, etc.).	a.		
	b.		
When exiting a parking lot or a business area, localizes the sidewalk with safety, while using available traffic cues.			

### Observations / Comments

[illegible]

## 2. Kinesthetic skills

	Acquired	In Progress	Needs To Develop
Walks in a straight line on the sidewalk.			
Performs accurate turns (90, 180 and 360°), in a static position.			
Estimates distance traveled or to be traveled within a block (east-west and north-south).			
Detects surface elevation changes while walking (entrance driveways, camber of the street).			
Integrates and applies at all times the notion of a light touch or grip, while being guided (Modified human guide technique – MHGT or HGT.) <i>MHGT refers to a sighted human guide using a modified guide dog harness or modified two handled walking cane to guide instead of direct contact.</i>			
Follows and reacts to the guide's movements with flexibility, while being guided (MHGT or HGT).			
While being guided in familiar environments (MHGT or HGT) detects and adjusts movements accordingly: a. inaccurate turns (less or more than 90°); b. arrival position at an angle at an intersection; c. veering toward or away from traffic during street crossing; d. street crossing without any stop at the intersection; e. veering or undesired direction change while walking a route.	a.		
	b.		
	c.		
	d.		
	e.		

### Observations / Comments


	Acquired	In Progress	Needs To Develop
<b>3. Environmental and spatial concepts</b>			
Utilizes appropriate learning material and understands the layout of: a. a street (sidewalk, traffic lane, parking lane). b. Cross shape of an intersection; c. T-shape of an intersection.	a.		
	b.		
	c.		
Construct a Cross-shape intersection with learning material and place cars at their appropriate position.			
Explains, with the support of miniature cars and models: a. traffic movements at an intersection controlled by 2-way stops, 4-way stops; b. traffic movements at an intersection controlled by simple traffic lights; c. place, at all times, miniature cars at their appropriate position at the intersection; d. move the cars in their appropriate lane while explaining traffic movement at the intersection; e. knows and explains the concept of a one-way street, with the support of miniature cars.	a.		
	b.		
	c.		
	d.		
	e.		

### Observations / Comments


#### 4. Cognitive mapping skills of the environment and spatial orientation

	Acquired	In Progress	Needs To Develop
Develops an accurate mental image of one environment, once familiarized to it: a. residential or school; b. outdoor site; c. street layout.	a.		
	b.		
	c.		
Is able to reproduce those environments on a tactile map, once familiarized to them.			
Orients oneself while traveling in indoor and outdoor environments in which he/she has been previously familiarized (indoor and out): a. analyzes the environment through sensory information; b. establishes a mental image; c. utilizes available landmarks and cues.	a.		
	b.		
	c.		
Knows and utilizes cardinal directions indoors and outdoors, when appropriate.			
Familiarizes oneself to an area with the support of a tactile map.			
Within a familiar environment, can propose different routes for a same destination.			
Plans independently the return trip of a simple route (reversibility).			
While executing specific routes, demonstrates good problem-solving skills and judges of the appropriate moments to solicit assistance that will ensure his/her security.			

#### Observations / Comments


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**5. Describe life habits relating to travelling** – What does a normal week day involve at school and at home? Describe the environment where travel occurs.

[illegible]

**6. Conclusion and recommendations** - Please include your thoughts on dog welfare – We would appreciate your input on this matter. In your opinion, do you think the student would benefit from a guide dog? Do you think the student is responsible enough to care for and be kind to a dog?

[illegible]

O&M Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_