

## MAILING A LETTER

### Objective

This activity was designed to allow students the experience of being blind while attempting to complete an everyday activity.

### Materials

- Blindfolds
- Envelopes
- Paper
- Pencils
- Stickers to use as stamps
- Assorted coins (different denominations: quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies). Have enough coins available to be able to provide each student with a selection so that they have to use their sense of feel to choose \$.41 to purchase a stamp.

### Activity

1. Explain to the students that they will be blindfolded and will try to complete a short note to mail to someone in their family. They will be provided with coins to buy a stamp.
2. Lay out in front of each student a piece of paper, a pencil and an envelope.
3. Have the students write their letter, fold it, put it in the envelope, seal the envelope, address the envelope, select correct coins, and pay for a stamp. Place stamp on the envelope.
4. When students have finished, take off the blindfolds and let them look at their work.

### Discussion

Explain to the students that people with visual impairments develop their other senses as a way for them to learn about the world.

Ask them to rate how well they performed this task.

How did they feel while doing this activity? What senses did they have to rely on?

Ask them if they were able to identify the different coins. How do they think a person who is blind could identify different denominations of bills?

Explain to them that people who are blind develop their own ways of identifying their money. They may fold certain bills one way and other bills another way. For example, they may fold all of their \$1.00 in half, all of their \$5.00 in fourths, etc., or they may have certain areas in their wallet, purse, or clothing for each denomination of bills.

Ask them if they have any ideas to help a blind person identify clothing in their closet or drawers.

Discuss ways a student with visual impairment could participate in school activities in their class.