

## **Sight Impairments Activities**

### **Use Yarn to Outline Shape of Objects**

To understand spatial relations when using visual aids for a music activity with children who have vision, you may adapt the activity for children who have sight impairments by outlining objects with yarn. The student with a sight impairment may then trace the yarn with a finger.

### **Teaching Spatial Relationships**

#### **Instruments**

Allow student to move hand left and right and front and back across the instrument to explore it. When a child is playing a keyboard instrument, move hand to demonstrate groupings of keys so that the child can feel the difference between the black keys which are taller in height and the white keys which are shorter.

#### **Musical Notation**

Use yarn to track the pathway of the melodic notes. Glue yarn between each pair of melody notes. Guide the child's hand along the yarn to facilitate acquisition of directionality in relation to the melody line.

#### **General Pointers**

- Use a buddy system. Choose a child to serve as an assistant. This child will narrate what is happening visually and may place the child's hand on the instruments to explore them as well as to play them.
- Make sure no objects are protruding from the walls at an elevated height, because a person with a sight impairment would not detect this object while using a cane or a walking stick.
- Use batteries rather than electrical cords in the classroom.
- Keep the room set up the same each day.
- Meet the child outside the classroom before class begins each day to familiarize student with layout of classroom and plans for the day.
- When giving verbal directions, use narrative descriptions and give the child the opportunity to practice.
- Turn off lights in the classroom to present instruments that light up and glow in the dark.
- Use colors that are high in contrast for children with some residual sight. For example, use white against a dark background such as navy or black.
- Use a bright yellow highlighter to highlight the student's musical part in order to help the student focus attention on the notes.