Learning Another Way Simulations

Activity Two: Picking Up a Dropped Object

Simulate how a person who is blind uses other senses to find a dropped object.

Materials Needed:
→ Objects made of different materials to drop (such as a ballpoint pen, pencil, paperclip, crumpled paper, etc.)
→ Blindfolds
→ Handout showing a grid pattern search (Page 58)

Procedures:
1. Explain to the students that you are going to blindfold them and see if they can find a dropped object.
2. First demonstrate to them how to bend from the knees to look for the object and not from the waist so that they do not hit their heads on a piece of furniture.
3. Select several students and blindfold them. Drop an object that makes a noise (pen, pencil) when it hits and an object that does not make a sound when it hits the ground (paperclip, paper) and have them try to find the objects.
4. Ask the student to explain what approaches they are trying to find their object and how these approaches feel.
5. Ask the student to describe what other senses they are using.
6. Explain how using your hearing to locate an object may help sometimes but not all of the time.
7. Ask the students, "Does anyone have any suggestions about how to make finding a dropped object easier if you cannot see?" Try out their suggestions.
8. Show students the grid pattern search. Explain how using a systematic grid search pattern search is much more productive in locating a dropped item than randomly feeling here and there when you cannot see.
9. Suggest using a grid search pattern. Then let them try it.
10. Blindfold another set of students and repeat the activity this time using a grid search.
11. Discuss the difference in results.

Discussion: Explain how doing a task in a little different way allows someone who cannot see to do them successfully.