

TRANSCRIPT: Visual impairment: Moon

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Chandon is visually impaired. He has minimal light perception, so if he goes into a room he will recognise if there's lights on, but that's the limit of his vision. He has recently learnt to read using the Moon code, which is a raised tactile code that uses lines and curves to represent the alphabet. It's not a simplified version of braille. It was actually developed before braille, when they were first trying to develop a code, a raised code, that blind individuals can read.

The first word he learnt was his name and, over time, he was learning all the high frequency words. He learnt them, and now we've moved to having it in a book format. So he has a title page, he has an author and he's learning to turn the page, and he has the same access to literacy as any other child but he's just accessing it in a different format.

The drawback with Moon is it's larger than braille, which for that initial access to a literacy medium it's fantastic and has enabled Chandon to begin to read and have an access to books, but then books have to be huge. Not many people produce them. RNIB produce some books, but not as many as they do in Braille, so we have to produce the books ourselves and we tend to write books that are very much focused on Chandon, that will help him develop his experience.

Now Chandon has learned to read Moon, he now understands that this mark on a page that he feels means the letter 'A' and so on, so it could help him in the future to learn to read braille.

The next steps for Chandon will be to develop his understanding of literacy and to read lots more books and enjoy reading.