

Children's University Club Challenge: Guide Dogs!



We all know about the amazing work that guide dogs are able to do. Have you ever wondered how our dog's senses compare to our own? Dogs share the same basic senses with us: they see, hear, touch, smell and taste. But the levels of their senses are very different - their eyesight in particular is VERY good. They have a much wider range of vision than humans! This challenge will look at how a Guide Dog uses its own senses to help people with vision problems.

You will need:

- A few items to make an obstacle course
- Something to make a blindfold
- A helpful adult!



Step 1: Ask an adult to help you set out a simple obstacle course, where you might need to walk around things, step over things, etc. This might be indoors or outdoors. Next, ask them to tie a blindfold around your eyes (a scarf works perfectly!) so that you cannot see.

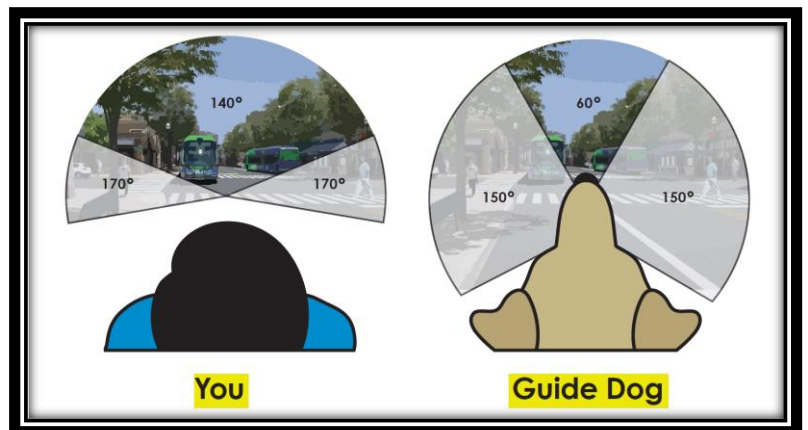
Step 2: With your adult watching to keep you safe (but not talking to you!), try and find your way through the obstacle course. Remember, you can't see, so go carefully! What can you do to help you find your way through? Did you bump into anything?

Step 3: Repeat the activity but this time, ask your adult to talk you through it - they can give you directions to follow this time. Was it any easier?

Step 4: Repeat the activity again but this time with an adult holding your hand or arm to help guide you. You can change the course a little each time if you like!

The final time through your obstacle course was probably the easiest, with the help of your adult guiding you along. This is how Guide Dogs help their owners, by steering them around obstacles and avoiding things that might cause them harm. They use their strong senses of sight as well as smell and hearing to check out their route.

Step 5: Next time you are out and about, have a good look for obstacles in the street, on a footpath or even in a park that might cause a problem to people with sight problems. Benches, litter bins, lamp-posts, roads, etc. You'll realise how clever Guide Dogs are! You could even try walking a familiar route with an adult. Link arms or hold their hand and keep your eyes closed tight. How does it feel, even though you know this route well? Next time you see a Guide Dog, watch how they help their owner. It's important not to touch or stroke Guide Dogs when they are working, so that we don't distract them from their job in keeping their owner safe.



For more information about the wonderful work of the Guide Dogs, visit www.guidedogs.org.uk

1 CU Credit for completing this task. To claim your credit, please complete your CU Club Challenge Reflection Diary and return to your school along with a photo of your re-creation. Remember to include the original artwork too! Finally: Add the Learning Stamp to your Digital Dashboard once you receive it from your school.

