



RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC®

RFB&D'S LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING®

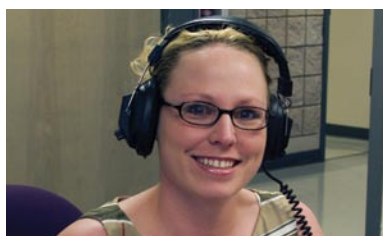
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

INSIDE THIS PROGRAM GUIDE:

- All about Learning Through Listening and RFB&D's membership, programs and services
- How Learning Through Listening builds independence, confidence and success for all learners with print disabilities
- Highlights from our research-based results



www.rfbd.org
800-221-4792



RFB&D 
learning through listening



LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING®:

CONFIDENCE. INDEPENDENCE. ACCESS. SUCCESS.

When students with print disabilities can listen and learn independently, **that's success**. When they can tackle the same curriculum content as their peers, **that's success**. And when they have access to the learning opportunities that enable them to pursue their own education and professional dreams, **that's success too**. RFB&D is a unique library serving people with print disabilities. And while we lend these learners audiobooks, the **confidence**, **independence** and **success** they develop are theirs to keep for a lifetime.

Who are we?

RFB&D is the nation's largest audio textbook library. We began in 1948 on the top floor of the New York Public Library where members of the library's Women's Auxiliary began recording textbooks for blinded World War II veterans.

Today RFB&D operates throughout the United States, and our audiobook library encompasses more than 30,000 digital titles. We serve 146,000+ members with print disabilities each year with our Learning Through Listening program. As a private, nonprofit, volunteer-based 501(c)(3) organization, we rely on donations, federal and state funding, product sales, and membership fees to support our operations. Information about making fully tax-deductible donations to RFB&D is available at **866-RFBD-585 (866-732-3585)**.

Who are our members?

We serve members of all ages who cannot effectively read standard print because of a visual impairment, learning disability or other physical disability.

What does RFB&D offer?

We offer members access to the audio textbooks they need for school, recreational reading and professional pursuits. We also offer specialized playback equipment and software, and support and training for educators and school administrators.

Where do members find our materials?

RFB&D operates recording studios nationwide. We serve members directly and through our state-based units. Members access our services online, or by telephone, fax and mail.

Why do students need RFB&D's services?

Students with disabilities that prevent them from accessing standard print listen to RFB&D's audio textbooks and other audiobooks to access the curriculum. Our members use our audiobooks to learn, conduct research, study for tests, read recreationally and prepare for professional opportunities.

What kinds of audiobooks does RFB&D offer?

Our library offers nearly every standard textbook from every major K-12 publisher in the US along with fiction, nonfiction and a broad selection of special interest books — all on easy-to-navigate, specialized CDs.



LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING

THE PATH TO SUCCESS

Some students learn more successfully by listening.

For learners with print disabilities stemming from physical, visual or learning challenges, RFB&D audiobooks deliver opportunity in the classroom and beyond. Using audiobooks, students can read and study with greater independence. They can access the complete curriculum so they stay on track with their classes and peers. They build confidence in their abilities to achieve academically and they experience success ... a powerful launching pad for the future.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic is a lending library.

Our members are individuals with print disabilities and institutions such as libraries, schools and universities that serve students with print disabilities.

Our membership programs include:

- 🎧 Access to our extensive lending library of more than 30,000 RFB&D AudioPlus® CDs.
- 🎧 The opportunity to request recording of books not held in our current collection.
- 🎧 24/7 online access at **www.rfbd.org** for ordering books, players and accessories; managing your account; viewing books in our current collection.
- 🎧 National Achievement Awards (NAAs) totaling more than \$50,000 for high school and college students with print disabilities.
- 🎧 **Listen Up!** — RFB&D's bimonthly member e-newsletter.
- 🎧 Personal support through RFB&D's nationwide locations. Visit **www.rfbd.org** to locate the office nearest you or use the handy contact list at the back of this brochure.

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and Ability (NAA Awards)

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LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING:

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SCHOOLS

Anyone with a documented disability — including a visual impairment, learning or other physical disability that makes reading difficult or impossible — is eligible to use RFB&D audiobooks. Membership information and applications are available 24/7 at www.rfbd.org or by calling **800-221-4792**.

Annual Membership Benefits Include:

- 🎧 Access for one year to RFB&D's extensive library of 30,000+ audiobook titles.
- 🎧 Access to RFB&D's recording and Library Reference services.
- 🎧 Multimedia support and training materials.
- 🎧 Unlimited live toll-free member support.
- 🎧 Member discounts on playback equipment and software.
- 🎧 Ability to order audiobooks and players 24/7 at www.rfbd.org

Institutional Memberships

RFB&D's Institutional Memberships give schools and agencies serving students who are unable to read standard print, due to a learning, visual or other physical disability, the opportunity to borrow recorded texts that align with current curriculum.

- 🎧 Three membership levels are available with pre-determined borrowing levels and associated membership fees, so schools can meet the needs of their current student population. Add-on packages are also available in case needs change during the year.

Individual Memberships

Students can join as individual members regardless of their schools' institutional membership status. Benefits of individual membership include:

- 🎧 Increased independence
- 🎧 The opportunity to borrow books for personal or professional reading

Two types of Individual Memberships are available:

- 🎧 **Student Individual Memberships** are purchased by educational institutions on behalf of a student.
- 🎧 **Personal Individual Memberships** are purchased directly by the student or student's family.



CONFIDENCE. INDEPENDENCE. ACCESS. SUCCESS. THAT'S LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING

RFB&D members are a diverse and remarkable group. They're as young as kindergarten students — and they're also working adults pursuing complex and challenging professional and personal goals.

People with Learning Disabilities

A large percentage of RFB&D's members are people who have dyslexia or other learning disabilities. Learning disabilities are neurobiological disorders in which brain function or structure may interfere with the ability to think and remember. Learning disabilities may affect speech, hearing, reading, writing, spelling, the ability to reason, recall, and organize information or process mathematical ideas. Professionals report that our audiobooks are an effective accommodation for many students whose learning disabilities affect their reading. Listening to the audio while following along with the print version or simply listening to the audiobook by itself often improves comprehension so students can stay on track with their peers and the curriculum.

People with Visual Impairments

For people who are blind or have other visual impairments that preclude them from accessing standard print effectively, RFB&D's audiobooks are invaluable. In addition to listening to text as it's read, members will hear maps, charts, tables, graphs and images described in detail by our specially trained readers.

People with Other Physical Disabilities

RFB&D defines “documented print disability” to include any physical disability that affects reading. People with mobility limitations that interfere with reading functions (such as turning pages or holding a book comfortably) are welcome to join RFB&D.

“**RFB&D IS AN EMPOWERMENT.
WHEN YOU START TO EDUCATE
YOURSELF, YOU REALIZE
WHAT A BLESSING — WHAT A
TREASURE IT IS.**”

PAUL STANKARD
MANTUA, NEW JERSEY
RFB&D DONOR AND MEMBER SINCE 2001





LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING HELPS MEMBERS BUILD CONFIDENCE, INDEPENDENCE AND SUCCESS



Tracy Johnson Proved Her Detractors Wrong with RFB&D's Audiobooks

In sixth grade Tracy Johnson was placed in special education classes. She found herself negatively labeled by peers, teachers and counselors. Denied admission to a local college because of poor reading skills, Tracy's hopes of a college education were all but destroyed. She took a janitorial position with the Philadelphia School District.

Then, encouraged by teachers and mentors from the Philadelphia School District, Tracy gave higher education another shot. Her eventual dyslexia diagnosis explained her earlier struggles with reading. Introduced to RFB&D's audio textbooks, Tracy excelled, graduating from Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, PA. She is now in graduate school successfully pursuing a career in psychology.



Nick Esposito Made His Dreams a Reality with RFB&D's Audiobooks

Diagnosed with a rare genetic condition that causes blindness, Nick Esposito left Pace College in his sophomore year. He spent the next two years seeking ways to continue his college education and fulfill his dream of becoming a teacher.

Referred by a rehabilitation counselor, Nick found RFB&D and returned to college. He credits RFB&D's accessible textbooks with maintaining his independence and saving hundreds of hours spent with live readers. After finishing his bachelor's degree, Nick then earned a master's degree. He's currently living his dream by teaching in both high school and as a part-time college instructor.



Cooper Alexander Reaches for the Stars

At just 27 weeks of age, Cooper Alexander's life changed forever when meningitis led to blindness and cerebral palsy. A rigorous course of therapy helped Cooper build independence. However, in third grade, he faced another tough challenge. This time, he was excluded from a school field trip to the local lake because he didn't read braille fast enough to meet the requirements of an Accelerated Reading Challenge.

Cooper's mother began to look for a solution. She learned about RFB&D and became involved with our Texas Unit so her son could get the reading help he needed and deserved. Cooper said, "I was excited, I mean really excited. I knew that from now on, my life would be totally different."

It took Cooper just two days to read his first book, take his first test and get a perfect score. He used RFB&D audiobooks to learn about space and prepare for a long-awaited visit to Space Camp in Alabama. He dreams about being an astronaut and, yes, he's recently met the Accelerated Reading Challenge and was able to join his classmates on that "awesome" trip to the lake!

“ I EMBRACE [RFB&D'S] TECHNOLOGY. IT'S A SYSTEM THAT WILL HELP PEOPLE BE MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE PRODUCTIVE, AND BLIND PEOPLE DEFINITELY NEED EVERY ADVANTAGE. ”

ERIK WEIHENMAYER
GOLDEN, COLORADO
FIRST PERSON WHO IS BLIND TO SUMMIT MT. EVEREST
RFB&D MEMBER SINCE 1981



RESEARCH SHOWS WHEN STUDENTS USE RFB&D'S LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING ... THEY ACHIEVE MORE!

We are consistently working on methods and techniques to improve learning with audiobooks. We commission primary research to document learning outcomes when students with print disabilities use our audiobooks.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR RECENT RESEARCH INCLUDE:

Study: Effects of Audio Text on the Acquisition of Secondary-Level Content by Students with Mild Disabilities.

Results: Students with learning disabilities showed a 38% increase in content acquisition reading scores after using RFB&D's AudioPlus® textbooks on CD.

Department of Special Education, Johns Hopkins University, Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, 2003

Study: Baltimore City Public School System.

Results: Students demonstrated significant achievement gains, including:

- Average increase in word recognition: .76 grade level.*
- Average increase in reading comprehension: .61 grade level.
- 8th grade students advanced one full grade level (1.0) in word recognition and 1.5 grade levels in reading comprehension.
- 9th grade students advanced 1.5 grade levels in both word recognition and reading comprehension.

Baltimore, Maryland, Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic 2004-2005

*A grade level is considered to be one academic year.

Study: Urban School District, Grades 4-8.

Results: This study showed that students using RFB&D's AudioPlus® textbooks in the inclusion setting improved their reading in general, and made gains in word recognition, reading rate and comprehension.

- Improved reading rate — 87.8 words per minute to 104 words per minute
- Increased reading accuracy — 94.4% per 100 words to 96.3% per 100 words

New Jersey, Rutgers University Study, 2004-2005

Study: The Tufts Summer Literacy Program.

Results: Students in the intervention group achieved significant increases in standard scores for these essential reading skills: listening comprehension, phonological analysis, and blending and reading comprehension.

Massachusetts Center for Reading and Language Research, Tufts University, 2004-2005

For more detailed research information call **800-221-4792**.



TEXTBOOKS, FICTION, NONFICTION & MORE ACROSS THE CURRICULUM ...

FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH GRADUATE SCHOOL

RFB&D serves students of all ages, along with educators, administrators and librarians. On these next few pages, you'll find an overview of our ever-expanding audiobook collection. For more information, request a copy of our Audiobook Preview Guide. Members can search for titles anytime via our complete online catalog at www.rfbd.org.

Our Audiobooks Are Better by Design for Those with Print Disabilities

- 🎧 RFB&D's AudioPlus books deliver enhanced navigation thanks to their specialized recording format. Users can jump from page-to-page, chapter-to-chapter or level-to-level, place bookmarks, adjust reader tone and speed.
- 🎧 Most titles fit conveniently on one or two CDs, thanks to our compression technology. Most commercial recordings require 10-12 CDs.
- 🎧 Our books are read by volunteer readers with subject expertise.
- 🎧 Human voice recordings enable students to hear proper inflection, expression, pronunciation, and prosody ... all important for literacy and fluency.
- 🎧 We record the entire book unlike some commercial publishers. This allows schools to meet the legal requirements in the accommodation sections of students' Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), which dictate that students must have textbooks in auditory format.

Textbooks

RFB&D offers audio textbooks in all subject areas, from early elementary through post-graduate level study. We work closely with every major US textbook publishing company to record recent releases as they're introduced. Our collection includes textbooks in these core and elective subject areas:

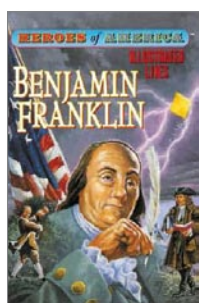
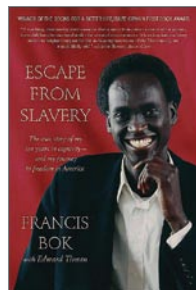
- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science
- Foreign Languages (including French, Spanish, German and Latin)



LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

Biographies

Our extensive collection of biographies encompasses the world's great historical figures and today's most intriguing sports, entertainment and political icons. These titles support and extend instruction in science, language arts and social studies.

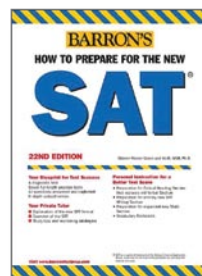


Thematic Collections

From African-American history to the stories of US presidents, Native American and Latino history to scientific breakthroughs, our thematic collections give students valuable research resources and opportunities to build content knowledge.

Test Preparation

For students preparing for Advanced Placement, college-entrance, law, MBA or other graduate program tests, RFB&D offers an extensive portfolio of test prep guides.

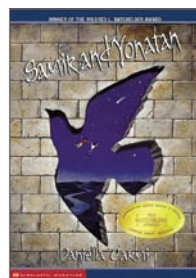


Accelerated Reader®

Many elementary and middle schools participate in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program to encourage students to read, comprehend and enjoy a variety of fiction and nonfiction books. RFB&D records titles aligned with AR tests so students with learning and print disabilities can participate fully in this motivating program.

High Interest/Low Vocabulary

Our "High/Low" textbooks and fiction support students in higher grades who are building vocabulary. Our collection includes classic literature adaptations and both fiction and nonfiction.





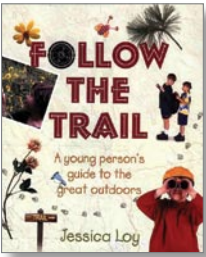
Nonfiction and Resources in the Content Areas

State-of-the-art curriculum calls for students to read extensively in all core subject areas. That’s why RFB&D focuses on recording supplemental materials in all content areas. From collections of primary source documents and literary criticism to specific topics in history and science, students can access valuable information for research assignments and activities such as science fairs or debate.



Popular Fiction & Award-Winning Books

Harry Potter. Junie B. Jones. Lemony Snicket. Hank Zipper. The stories that ignite students’ love of reading are all available from RFB&D. We constantly build our popular fiction collections so young readers can read, explore, and enjoy the characters and stories that enrich and enlighten. And, yes, we record Caldecott Medal and Newbery Award winners, so students can enjoy the very best of the best.



Hobbies, Recreation, Personal Growth, Technology

Scouting. Cooking. Internet research. Self-help. RFB&D’s audiobooks open a world of interesting opportunities beyond the classroom.

“RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC OFFERS SUCH A WONDERFUL SERVICE. THE PROGRAM IS INVALUABLE TO SO MANY PEOPLE ON SO MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS.”

JOAN BROWN
WEST WINDSOR, NEW JERSEY
MOTHER OF KATHRYN BROWN, RFB&D
MEMBER SINCE 2000



OUR MEMBERS ARE READERS!

Last year, more than 146,000 members listened to more than 425,000 audiobooks. We served close to 8,000 institutional members who used close to 195,000 audiobooks. That’s one more indication that audiobooks work for students with print disabilities.



WE'VE GOT YOUR GEAR ... AND YOUR SOFTWARE TOO!

RFB&D records audiobooks in a specialized format to comply with US copyright law. The law requires that we serve a specifically defined population of people who cannot read standard print effectively.

- 🎧 Listening to our audiobooks requires specially equipped players and/or software, available for nonprofit sale from RFB&D.
- 🎧 RFB&D members receive special pricing on players, software and listening accessories.
- 🎧 RFB&D now records titles exclusively in a digital format for CDs. We are rapidly converting our backlist of analog recordings to digital format.
- 🎧 Visit www.rfbd.org to see a full line of playback equipment.

Easy Navigation. Reliable Operation.

Our specialized equipment enables easy content navigation and produces high quality audio:

- 🎧 Readers can navigate page-to-page and chapter-to-chapter with a single button press.
- 🎧 Readers can bookmark text in multiple places.
- 🎧 Digital audio technology eliminates the “tape hiss” of the older cassette format.

Lighten Up that Backpack!

Our CDs typically hold more than 40 hours of recorded material each. Books recorded previously on 10 cassettes will now fit onto a single CD. That makes carrying multiple audio textbooks a much lighter load to tote.

Browse Our Latest Catalog

<https://cushub.rfbd.org/browseproducts.asp>

Call RFB&D's member services department at **800-221-4792** and request your copy of *RFB&D's Learning Through Listening Tools for Success* catalog of players and accessories or visit our website at www.rfbd.org.





ADDITIONAL SERVICES

FROM RFB&D'S LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING PROGRAM

Reference Services

Our Reference Librarian subject reference service provides members with reference services similar to those offered in academic and public libraries. We will search our audiobook collection to find out which titles are available to address specific member questions and needs. To talk to our reference specialists, call us at **609-520-8031**. Members can also search our online catalog by title, author or publisher to locate available books.

Recording Requests

From time to time, members request books that we do not have available in our library. We may be able to record that book for you. We urge you to contact our Member Services team at **800-221-4792** for assistance.

Installment Recording

For larger textbook series that are newly released, we can accommodate members' needs by providing content as it's recorded, so students can stay on track with a given course's scope and sequence. Please contact us for additional information.

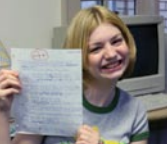
Custom Recording Services

Our fee-based custom recording services help businesses convert their materials into accessible formats for employees, prospects and consumers with print disabilities. For more information, call **609-520-8096** or visit our website at **www.rfbd.org**.

VOLUNTEERS' VOICES

7,000+ volunteers help record RFB&D audiobooks at 29 studios across the US. And because much of the content we record is specialized, we recruit volunteers who are specialists in the areas of science, math, and other technical fields, to make certain our recordings are as clear and accurate as possible.





RFB&D REACHES OUT TO THE DISABILITIES COMMUNITY

For Referring Professionals

RFB&D welcomes referrals from physicians, social workers, speech and language pathologists, and other referring professionals. We hope you will keep our services in mind when working with clients who will benefit from our audiobooks and related services. For information, contact us at **800-221-4792**.

NIMAC Leadership

RFB&D is playing a leadership role with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) and has received designation as an Alternative Media Provider (AMP) for states seeking to provide instructional materials in the NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard) format. We will convert NIMAS files into fully accessible textbooks for students and will work closely with schools and state curriculum contacts throughout the US. As the NIMAC and workflows within states evolve, RFB&D will continue to respond to the changing needs of state and local education agencies. For additional and the most up-to-date information about RFB&D's NIMAS/NIMAC programs, please contact us at **800-221-4792**.

“RFB&D LETS THE KIDS TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN EDUCATION AND THEIR OWN FUTURE ... WITH [RFB&D] THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE LIMITED NOT BY THEIR DISABILITY, BUT BY THEIR OWN DESIRES AND DREAMS OF SUCCESS.”

DAVID HALL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
TEACHER

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RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENT & ABILITY

RFB&D'S NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year, RFB&D sponsors two awards programs for outstanding students with print disabilities.

The Marion Huber Learning Through Listening® (LTL®) Awards

The **Marion Huber Learning Through Listening Awards** are presented to RFB&D members who are high school seniors with learning disabilities, in recognition of extraordinary leadership, scholarship, enterprise and service to others. Offered since 1991, the awards are given to six students who are chosen by a selection committee. **RFB&D presents the three top winners \$6,000 each and three special honors winners \$2,000 each.**

For the purposes of this award, a learning disability is defined as a neurological disorder that impedes a person's ability to receive, store, process and/or produce information, which affects reading, writing, spelling, computation, organizational skills, coordination and/or attention span.

The Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards (SAAs)

The **Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards** are presented to RFB&D members who are college seniors and blind or visually impaired, in recognition of extraordinary leadership, scholarship, enterprise and service to others. Offered since 1959, the awards are given to a total of nine students who are chosen by a selection committee. **RFB&D gives three top winners \$6,000 each; three special honors winners \$3,000 each; and three honors winners \$1,000 each.**

Additional information about these important national award programs is available online at **www.rfbd.org** or by calling RFB&D at **866-RFBD-585 (866-732-3585)**. We encourage all students who meet the criteria to submit applications, and we advise families and educators to share award information with eligible students.





HOW TO REACH RFB&D:

National Headquarters
Princeton, NJ:
800-221-4792

Member Services:
800-221-4792
fax: 609-987-8116
e-mail: custserv@rfbd.org

Donation Information:
866-732-3585

Volunteer Information:
800-803-7201

Reference Librarian
Service:
609-520-8031
e-mail: reference@rfbd.org

Custom Recording Service:
609-520-8096

www.rfbd.org

RFB&D National Locations

Arizona

Peoria 623-977-6020
Phoenix 602-468-9144

California

Goleta 805-681-0531
Los Angeles 323-664-5525
Palo Alto 650-493-3717
Redondo Beach 310-371-9969
Reseda 818-654-2747
Santa Ana 714-547-4171
Upland 909-949-4316

Colorado

Denver 303-757-0787

Connecticut

New Haven 203-624-4334

District of Columbia

Washington, DC 202-244-8990

Florida

Boca Raton 561-297-4444
Miami 305-666-0552

Georgia

Athens 706-549-1313

Illinois

Chicago 312-236-8715
Orland Park 708-349-9356
Naperville 630-420-0722

Kentucky

Louisville 502-895-9068

Massachusetts

Cambridge 617-577-1111
Lenox 413-637-0889
Williamstown 413-458-3641

Michigan

Troy 248-879-0101

New Jersey

Princeton 609-750-1830

New York

Manhattan 212-557-5720

North Carolina/Virginia

Charlottesville 434-293-4797

Pennsylvania

King of Prussia 610-265-8090

Tennessee

Oak Ridge 856-482-3496

Texas

Austin 512-323-9390

Virginia/North Carolina

Charlottesville 434-293-4797



learning through listening

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
20 Roszel Road
Princeton, NJ 08540