



Play, Learn, Braille: A Family's Guide to Polly[®]

Presenters

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Poll 1

What is your level of familiarity with Polly?

1. I have never used Polly
2. I have a family member that uses Polly
3. I have used Polly myself
4. I have used Polly, but I do not know much about it
5. I am not sure



Questions?

- Please put your questions in the chat
- Questions will be answered as time allows



Learning Objectives

- Describe the key features of the Polly device
- Recognize how Polly fits into a broader braille education plan
- Demonstrate how to use Polly's guest mode and how to switch between user accounts
- Develop a home-based routine for using Polly



Who was Polly, the person?

- Polly Thomson came to work for Helen Keller in 1914 as a secretary.
- She was Keller's primary companion from 1936 to 1957.



What is Polly?

- Electronic device to support early braille learning
- Interactive games and lessons
- Can track learner progress through a website
- All lessons available as 6-key entry or digital slate entry



Poll 2

The person that Polly is named after is best known for what?

1. Rescuing and raising parrots
2. She was a famous actress
3. Inventing the braille code
4. She was Helen Keller's primary companion from 1936 to 1957
5. I am not sure



How do I know if Polly is a good fit for my child?

- Able to access audio instructions
- Able to press buttons with about the same force as keyboard keys
- Device has sing-song joyous energy



How can I support my child using Polly at home?

- Independent practice
- Family does lessons together
- Make part of daily routine
- Whole family compete in games
- Listen and sing songs



What is guest mode?

- Automatic mode when a learner account is not connected to device
- Has all lessons and games
- Does not track progress
- Good for multiple people using same device and not wanting to switch learner account
- Never need internet for this mode



How do we change the learner on Polly?

- Companion website called Helios
- On Helios adults can create learner accounts
- The learner account can be connected to a Polly device
- Only one learner can be connected to a Polly device at a time
- Learner accounts track lesson progress
- Lesson progress stored on device until next connection to internet



Poll 3

Does guest mode have all games and lessons?

1. No, it only has a sample of the lessons
2. No, it has half of the games and lessons
3. No, It has the games but not the lessons
4. Yes, it has all the games and lessons
5. I am not sure



Do I need internet access to use Polly?

Using Polly without the internet can be approached in three main ways:

1. Never connect to the internet
2. Connect to internet to attach learner to device and unlock all lessons
3. Connect to internet to attach learner and progression lock lessons



Is Polly a stand-alone braille curriculum?

- Polly is best when the learner is also working with a braille instructor or other braille curriculum
- Great for independent practice



Did I hear that some Polly units have a bad power cord?

The power cord for Polly is divided into two parts:

1. The larger part has the power brick and plugs into the device
 2. The smaller part goes from the power brick to the electrical outlet
- One shipment of Polly units in 2023 had a defective smaller part for the power cord.
 - The bad cords were recalled, and customers were contacted and sent a new cord.
 - Internal processes changed to prevent this happening again



How can I double check my cord to ensure peace of mind?

- As a reminder – the part of the power cord affected was the small part that goes from the power brick to the wall outlet
- The cords have strings of letters and numbers printed on them
- The defective cords have a string of letters and numbers that start with E74
- If you have any questions or want assistance, please contact our Customer Service team Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm EST at: 800-223-1839 or support@aph.org.



Poll 4

What is the combination of numbers and letters that is found on the defective power cords?

1. F35
2. E40
3. E74
4. F77
5. I am not sure

