




WV Resources for Serving Infants and Toddlers with Vision Loss

The West Virginia Birth to Three Implementation Team for Infants and Toddlers with Sensory Loss is collecting and developing targeted resources to support early intervention teams in identifying and serving infants and toddlers with vision and/or hearing loss.

 <p>TEAM MEMBERS Role & Responsibilities</p>	<p><u>Roles and Responsibilities of the Vision Specialist</u></p> <p>A vision specialist should be a team member as soon as the child has a diagnosis of a visual impairment from an ophthalmologist. Because vision impairment can affect all areas of development, the family must learn ways to enhance the child’s ability to interact with the environment. The desired outcome is that secondary delays will be prevented or minimized. The vision specialist coaches the families in intervention strategies embedded in their daily routines and provides resources and supports for the entire team serving a child with a visual impairment.</p>
	<p><u>Early Warning Signs for Vision Loss for Families</u></p> <p>Children who have vision loss might have normal-looking eyes. Often, it will be something about a child’s behavior or the way he uses his eyes that makes you think there might be a problem with the way he sees. The American Public Health Association estimates that only about 14 percent of young children (younger than 6 years of age) have had their eyes and vision examined. Early Warning Signs provides families with an easy to understand checklist aimed to identified early vision concerns.</p>
	<p><u>Risk Factors for Delay Onset Hearing Loss</u></p> <p>All professionals who work with children with disabilities should be aware of the risk factors that may result in hearing loss. Recent research has indicated that even if infants pass newborn hearing screening at birth, on-going monitoring of hearing throughout childhood particularly with certain risk factors is required due to increased risk of developing a postnatal hearing loss. Developed for professionals, this tool identifies risk indicators for infants and toddlers who have passed the newborn hearing screen but may be at risk for delay onset of hearing loss.</p>



Routines: Context for Learning

All learning occurs through a child’s interactions and experiences. For a typically developing, child this mostly occurs incidentally and without effort as information flows through our distance senses of vision and hearing.... The Gateway to Learning. Sensory challenges turn this learning upside down. Information becomes incomplete, distorted or unreliable and directly affects learning and development. Consistent structured routines provide a predictable context and offer the opportunities to develop communication, skills, and concepts and to develop relationships. They are concrete experiences that provide the order on which the child can build on, connect their own experiences, and build concepts. This tool provides strategies and tips to guide professionals and families through daily routines for infants and toddlers with vision and/or hearing loss.

WV Birth to Three and
WV SenseAbilities

A Tool for Identifying
Vision and Hearing Loss
in Children with
Multiple Disabilities

A Tool for Assessing Vision and Hearing

This tool was created to assist early interventionist practitioners, classroom teachers, therapists, school nurses, and parents in identifying sensory impairments in children with multiple disabilities. This identification tool relies on three sources of data in determining if referral for a medical evaluation for hearing and/or vision loss is necessary:

- A. Observation
- B. Available medical information
- C. Parent Interview



Webinar Series

- [An Overview: Impact of Vision and Hearing Loss on Child Development](#)
- [Impact of Vision Impairment on Social Emotional Development - YouTube](#)
- CVI Series for Families
 - [My Child has CVI – Now What?](#)
 - [Intervention for Children with CVI; Phase I](#)
 - [My Child has CVI – Phase II](#)
 - [My Child has CVI – Phase II and Moving Up](#)



West Virginia Resource Guide for Families of
Young Children with Visual Impairments Birth to Five

WV Resource Guide for Families of Young Children with Vision Loss

The focus of this guide is to provide a comprehensive, family friendly guide for families with young children birth through five. Contents include understanding your child’s vision loss; bonding; developmental milestones for infants who are blind and visually impaired; what families can do every day; exploring your environment; expanded core curriculum; assistive technology; and resources.