

Lewis's Journey

Lewis is registered as severely sight impaired, he has little functional vision.

Suffolk County Council Visual Impaired Service has worked with Lewis and his family since he was 9 months old.

Lewis and his families view

- I want to be as independent as possible.
- I want to be active.
- I do not like being referred to as blind.
- I do not like children bumping into me.
- I want to access mainstream school and join in with everything
- I want people around me to understand me

Support

- Lewis was assessed by a Qualified Teacher for the Vision Impaired (QTVI)
- Lewis was supported by a Sensory Support Practitioner (SSP)
- The SSP supported Lewis and his family on developing tactile skills
- A Habitation Specialist supported Lewis and his family with early orientation and mobility skills training
- The QTVI worked with the pre-school staff to help them understand Lewis's visual difficulties and how best to support him
- QTVI supported Lewis with his transition from Pre-school to school
- Lewis's SSP joined him and supported him at home, at pre-school and also when he joined primary school
- The SSP supported the Teaching Assistants at school to develop Braille and tactile learning skills.
- The QTVI collaborated to ensure Lewis was learning the same curriculum as his sighted friends.
- The SSP transcribed in Braille all of Lewis's reading scheme books.
- When Lewis moved from infant school to junior school his class teacher and teaching assistants moved too to provide Lewis with consistency of provision
- School, VI and parents were involved in Lewis's transition
- Habilitation Specialist carried out a sensory environmental audit for both school sites, ensuring effective mobility and independence access was maintained for Lewis
- VI attend Lewis's EHCP reviews to give advice and guidance

- The VI service have provided Lewis's school with a Braille printer to reduce the volume of hand-braille resources the TA;s need to produce.
- The VI Service has arranged training for school staff and family on the Braille Note Touch (digital Braille).

Outcomes

- Lewis has learnt most contractions in grade two Braille by the end of year two
- Lewis is a consistently able pupil and is in the top groups for all subjects
- VI Habilitation Specialist worked with children in Lewis's class to help them understand how to help Lewis with his orientation and moving around school
- Lewis is supported by his school as they have formed a strong working relationship with the VI service and Lewis's family.
- Lewis has thrived, learnt new crucial orientation, mobility and tactile skills including Braille.
- Lewis's and his family have confidence as they are supported consistently by the VI Service.
- Lewis has engaged in activities such as Indoor Rock Climbing and Dry Slope skiing
- SSP set up a Braille Club so Lewis's peers could learn Braille too

Challenges

- Next challenge will be supporting Lewis to ensure a smooth transition into secondary school
- Helping Lewis become an independent cane user
- Lewis has a diagnosis of ASD this creates additional challenges in that Lewis may experience change differently
- Lewis's reaction to change and situation is reactive and may not be predictable
- Lewis's load on his memory is vast due to sensory adaptations

Services Involved:

- Visual Impairment Service
- School
- Family

Lewis has

- Attended his first wall climbing session and loved it!
- learned the school's curriculum alongside his classmates
- friends that support and understand him
- Lewis and his family feel positive