



Vision Service

Who we are

Our Vision Services Team is part of the Sensory and Physical service providing services and support for children and young people and their families who meet the referral criteria.

Specialist Teachers

You will meet a specialist teacher. With your agreement, they will arrange to meet up with you and your child, usually in your home. Over the coming months and years, the role of the Specialist Teacher will be to help you understand your child's vision loss, to become confident with the accessibility technology available and help you as you support your child's development. Specialist Teachers support children and young people who have a visual loss throughout their time in school, and later at college, 6th form or university.

SSP – Sensory Support Practitioner

You may also meet a specialist support practitioner, known as an SSP. With your agreement, your Specialist Teacher will allocate an SSP to complete blocks of targeted work with you and your child. Support can include: spatial awareness and communication skills through play, teaching of touch-typing, braille and technology accessibility, awareness and modification training for nursery and setting staff, transitions and observations of your child's progress.

Habilitation Specialist

You will also meet an Habilitation Specialist. With your agreement, they will arrange to meet with you and your child too. They will conduct an environmental audit, and will help with accessibility, lighting and mobility adaptations at home and within your child's education setting. Support can include: long cane training, developing social and independent living skills, training for setting staff and transitions.

What is the role of the Vision Team?

As a team of people, we aim to help you as you begin to understand your child's vision loss and your child's needs. We will work alongside you as your child grows and develops, to promote access to learning, communication and independence. We want to enable you to feel confident to manage your child's visual needs and walk with you through your family's journey and help your child strengthen their resilience, confidence and fulfil their potential.

Other professionals we work with

In order to support you and your child, we work closely with the professionals in your area such as:

- Paediatrician
- Ophthalmologist
- Eye Clinic Liaison Officer
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo)
- Nursery settings
- Other professionals such as Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist
- School teachers
- Family Support Team

What does our support look like?

Depending on your child and their level of need, we may offer the following support:

- Advice and information
- Home and/or nursery/school visits
- Signposting to local or national events or sources of information
- Sharing information about local sports and social activities for children and young people with similar experiences
- Monthly drop in/family and child groups such as Vizz Kidz
- Support to learn touch-typing and braille
- Access to technology – using inbuilt features of mainstream technology or specialist equipment and programmes.
- Refer you to other professional such as a Family Support Worker who can help you with form filling e.g. applying for Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Where to find further information

Please see overleaf for further information about local and national vision support services.



Vision Service

Children Focused Websites

<https://littlebearses.org/> - set up by parent of children with visual support needs – lots of information, tips and ideas

<https://strategytosee.com/> - strategies and literacy, projects

<https://cviscotland.org/> - information including simulations e.g. visual acuity images - useful to help understand what different acuities and contrast sensitivities look like

<https://pcvis.vision/> - Paediatric Cortical Visual Impairment Society

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/> - lots of information and ideas for parents of young children with visual impairment

www.youtube.com – lots of children friendly videos by Alissa DeSoussa

www.youtube.com – Hey Bear – lots of simple videos with high contrast images on black background

www.youtube.com – Tiny Adventures TV – Baby Sensory videos

General Websites

British Blind Sport <https://britishblindsport.org.uk/>

Guide Dogs - <https://www.guidedogs.org.uk>

Moorfields Eye Hospital -
<https://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/>

Paths to Literacy - <https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/> - joint project between Perkins School for the Blind and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired – ideas and resources on a huge number of topics for educators and families to provide literacy experiences

Positive Eye - <http://www.positiveeye.co.uk> – training, assessments and resources

Royal Society for Blind Children -
<https://www.rsbc.org.uk/>

RNIB - www.rnib.org.uk

Seeability - www.seeability.org – provides specialist support and eye care for people with learning disabilities, autism and sight loss

Sensing Change -
<https://www.sensingchange.org.uk/>

Suffolk Sight - www.suffolksight.org.uk

Look UK - www.look-uk.org

Victa Parents - <https://www.victaparents.org.uk/> - information hub for parents and carers of children who are blind or partially sighted

Youtube -
www.Youtube.com?user/WAStSchBlnd?videos – lots of techniques e.g. how to use cooking equipment, preparing fruit and vegetables, shaving, tying shoes, how to zip, matching clothes, folding clothes etc.

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