

Interventions

- Magnifiers
- Big-Print Books
- Seat the student appropriately in the classroom
- Create Consistent Routines and Transitions
- Assistive technology (i.e. optical devices, braille computers)
- Social skills training



RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

[American Printing House for The Blind- Family Connect](#)

[Visual Impairment Simulations](#)

[American Council of The Blind](#)

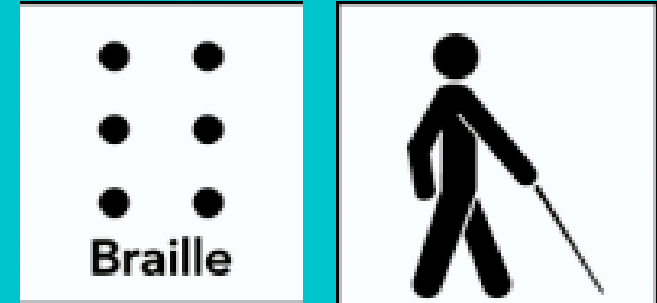
RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND PROFESSIONALS

[University of Delaware: Visual Impairments- Recommendations for Teachers](#)

[Teaching Students with Visual Impairments](#)

[Visual Impairments](#)

Blindness/ Vision Impairments



What does Blindness and vision impairment mean?

Visual Impairment

- A broad term that is used to refer to any degree of vision loss that affects a person's ability to perform the usual activities of daily life. Refers to a loss of vision that cannot be corrected to normal vision, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses.

Blindness

- When a person has a central vision acuity (vision that allows a person to see straight ahead of them) of 20/200 or less with eye correction.

Incidence

- Approximately 6.8% of children younger than 18 years in the United States have a diagnosed eye and vision condition.
- Nearly 3% of children younger than 18 years are blind or visually impaired.

CHARACTERISTICS AND DEFICITS

- Depends on the severity, type of loss, age at which the condition appears, and overall functioning level of the student.
- Young students with visual impairments have little reason to explore interesting objects in the environment.
- The student may be unable to imitate social behavior or understand nonverbal cues.
- [National Eye Institute Glossary of Conditions](#)

Causes

- uncorrected refractive errors
- cataracts
- neurological conditionals (cortical vision impairment)
- glaucoma
- Illnesses that happen to some premature babies
- Structural problems
- infection
- Trauma

Assessment Approaches and Considerations for the School Psychologist

- **Functional Vision Assessment:** to see how the child uses any vision they have
- **Learning Media Assessment:** determines the primary way in which the child gathers information and the literacy tools and medium appropriate for her instruction
- **Orientation and Mobility Assessment:** examines a child's ability to travel safely both indoors and outdoors and with or without assistance.
- Multimethod Assessment
- Consulting with Teachers
- [Evaluation Resources for School Psychologists](#)



Childhood Developmental Outcomes

- Children may be slower in learning to roll over, crawl, walk, speak, and be social with others.
- May have difficulties learning how to read and write.

Adult Developmental Outcomes

- Case by case scenario
- Adults with vision impairment often have lower rates of workforce participation and productivity and higher rates of depression and anxiety. In the case of older adults, vision impairment can contribute to social isolation, difficulty walking, a higher risk of falls and fractures, and a greater likelihood of early entry into nursing or care homes.

DSM and IDEA

IDEA- VISUAL IMPAIRMENT INCLUDING BLINDNESS