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MODULE 1: ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES (SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY)

LESSON 8

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Phrases and Words	Transcription	Definition	Translate into your own language
blindness	/blaɪnd/	unable to see. Some people prefer to use the expression visually impaired	
low vision	/ləʊ 'vɪʒ(ə)n /	vision problem that makes it hard to do everyday activities	
glaucoma	/glɔː 'keʊmə/	a group of eye conditions that damage the optic nerve, the health of which is vital for good vision. This damage is often caused by an abnormally high pressure in your eye.	
diplopia	/dɪ 'pləʊpiə/	technical term for double vision.	
cataract	/'kætərækt/	an opacification of the lens of the eye which leads to a decrease in vision.	
contact lens	/'kɒntækt lenz/	a thin plastic lens placed directly on the surface of the eye to correct visual defects.	
strabismus	/strə 'bɪzməs/	abnormal alignment of the eyes; the condition of having a squint.	
caregiver	/'keə(r), gɪvə(r)/	Person who invest time, money, and emotion helping a friend or loved one manage loss of sight.	
colour blindness	/'kʌlə(r) blaɪnd les /	the inability to distinguish the differences between certain colors. This condition results from an absence of color -sensitive pigment in the cone cells of the retina, the nerve layer at the back of the eye.	

10 Tips for Teaching Blind or Visually Impaired Students



As fully sighted individuals, it's hard to really understand what a school day is like for a significantly visually impaired or blind student. According to the [American Foundation for the Blind](#), each student's vision needs are individual to them, and it's important that these students have access to a Certified Teacher for the Visually Impaired (TVI) and/or a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) for consult and professional input. But what practical tips can you implement now for teaching blind students?

Charlene Laferrera, MEd is a Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired. She's spent 30 years working in various school systems including the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA with students ranging in age from birth to 22 years of age. Magali Gueths, MEd, has been a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist for 15 years working in various locations and school districts. Magali has a fully blind son so innately understands the needs of blind and visually impaired students. They provide the following tips for teachers:

1. Always use names

Always use a visually impaired student's first name when addressing them. This way they will know you are talking to them and not someone else. When passing in hallways instead of saying, "Hi" have people announce their name as students may not be able to recognize faces. An example, "Hi Sara, it's Mrs. Murphy, how

are you today?" Prompt fellow students to do the same because this fosters connection in the school community.

2. It's okay to use words that reference sight

Don't avoid words like "see" and "look." Just like their sighted peers, these words should be part of a blind or visually impaired student's vocabulary to connote how they see, whether by touch, bringing things close or in normal conversation, like saying "see you later!"

3. Don't gesture, always verbalize

When writing on the board, always verbalize what you are writing so the student has access to that information and can follow along. Use positional and directional concepts like above/under, on top, behind/in front of, left/right etc. and use descriptive sentences like, "The ball is next to the door" instead of "The ball is over there." Avoid words and phrases like "here," "there," "over here," "over there," and gestures that provide direction, i.e. pointing to a location without verbalizing what is being pointed to because visually impaired students cannot see that.

4. Avoid asking if a student can see something

Don't ask a student, "Can you see this?" They often can see it, but that does not mean that they can access it or read it. Instead ask: "Can you find X?" or "Can you identify all the words and numbers without guessing?" or "Can you see some parts of the board better than others?"

5. Correct seating is crucial

Always favor the stronger side of the student's vision due to visual field deficits. For example, if the student only uses his left eye, he would need to sit on the right side of the classroom away from the windows. Seating facing a light source (sun, windows) should ideally be at their back.

6. Contrast, contrast, contrast!

Use contrast for everything. Think, “bold, big, and simple!” Use bright balls in contrast with the floor at gym. Stairs should have at least the first and last steps taped with a contrasting color (typically yellow) at the edge of the step.

7. Follow the leader

When in line, direct their attention to the child in front of them using color of clothing or hair and have them model/follow what that child is doing (stopping, walking straight, turning, etc.), always moving slowly for safety.

8. Be a confident sighted guide

If you need to be a sighted guide for a preschooler, offer two fingers or your wrist for them to hold. You are not holding them unless it is for their safety. For older students, they hold just above your elbow with their dominant hand.

9. Safety first

Students need to understand the “rules of the road” and always use the right-hand side of hallways or the right railing. Use boundaries like cones in the gym, lines on the pavement to follow from school to the playground, etc. If there are changes to the classroom, walk the student through alone so they know where things are.

10. Examine your own beliefs

Be aware of your own acceptance and your beliefs [surrounding what a student who is blind or visually impaired can do both in your classroom](#) and as a professional. Your acceptance of a student who has a visual impairment will serve as an example to all the students in your class.

Common Vocabulary in Eye Reports



The vocabulary found in eye reports is just jargon to those unfamiliar with the terminology. Although not exhaustive, the following is a list of common vocabulary words that can be found in eye reports. [Let me know](#) if there are additional words you would like listed for quick reference!

Accommodation

The ability of the eye to adjust its focus for seeing at different distances by changing the shape of the lens through action of the ciliary muscles. Occurs through a process of ciliary muscle contraction and zonular relaxation that causes the elastic-like lens to "round up" and increase its optical power.

Adventitiously Blind

Term used to describe someone that was sighted prior to becoming blind. It is a loss or impairment of vision that occurs after birth, usually as a result of an accident or disease.

Binocular Vision

The ability to see with both eyes at the same time. Blending of the separate images seen by each eye into one composite image. It results in three-dimensional perception.

Blindness

The inability to see; the absence or severe reduction of vision. **Many people who meet the definition of blind still have some useable vision. **

Color Blindness

Reduced ability to discriminate between colors, especially shades of red and green. Usually hereditary.

Congenital

A word describing any condition present at birth.

Congenitally Blind

Term used to describe someone who has been blind since birth.

Convergence

The movement, as an object approaches, of both eyes toward each other in an effort to maintain fusion of separate images.

Convex Lens

A lens that bends light rays inward and is used to correct hyperopia. It is also called a plus lens.

Doll's Eye Phenomenon

An automatic reaction that occurs during the first and second weeks of life. Rapid turning of the infant's head in a horizontal or vertical plane elicits a response of the child's eyes rotating to the opposite direction.

Enucleation

The surgical procedure consisting of removal of the entire eyeball.

Esophoria

A tendency of the eye to turn inward.

Esotropia

A form of strabismus in which one or both eyes deviate inward.

Exophoria

A tendency of the eye to turn outward.

Exotropia

A form of strabismus in which one or both eyes deviate outward.

Eye Dominance

Tendency of one eye to assume the major function of seeing, being assisted by the less dominant eye.

Field of Vision

The area of extent of physical space visible to an eye held in a fixed position. Its average extent is approximately 65 degrees upward (superior), 75 degrees downward (inferior), 60 degrees inward (nasal), and 95 degrees outward (temporal) when the eye is in the straight-forward position.

Floaters

Particles that float in the vitreous and cast shadows on the retina; seen as spots, cobwebs, spiders, etc. It occurs normally with aging or with vitreous detachment, retinal tears, or inflammation.

Focal Point

The position on the principal axis of a lens system where parallel light rays are brought to a point focus.

Functional Blindness

Condition in which some useful vision may or may not be present but in which the individual uses tactile and auditory channels most effectively for learning.

Fusion

The power of coordinating the images received by the two eyes into a single mental image.

Hypertropia

The upward deviation of one eye.

Hypotropia

The downward deviation of one eye.

In Focus

An object is in focus when it is being seen most clearly.

-itis

A word ending meaning inflammation.

Legally Blind

For a student to be determined legally blind, the corrected vision in the student's better eye is determined to be worse than 20/200. There are different degrees of blindness. The range is from 20/200 after correction to "no light perception" or "nil". A visual field no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye is also considered legally blind.

Light Adaptation

Physiologic process that adjusts the eye to bright light levels.

Low Vision

Low vision describes a serious loss of vision that cannot be corrected by medical or surgical procedures, or with conventional eyeglasses. Eye care specialists describe low vision in terms of acuity and visual field. The only consistency in low vision is that there are many inconsistencies as conditions effect people in different ways.

Microphthalmia

An abnormally small eyeball.

Monocular Vision

Sight through one eye only, typically caused by injury or enucleation.

Night blindness

A condition in which visual acuity is diminished at night and in dim light.

Occlusion or Patching

Where one eye is covered to develop the sight in the "lazy eye".

Partially Sighted

Limited sight which cannot be corrected by glasses or low vision aids. It is a term used to indicate visual acuity of 20/70 to 20/200 but also used to describe visual impairment in which usable vision is present.

Peripheral vision

The perception of objects, motion, or color outside the direct line of vision or by other than the central retina.

Photocoagulation

The use of a laser to burn or destroy selected intraocular structures, such as intraocular tumors or abnormal blood vessels, and to create chorioretinal adhesions in retinal detachment surgery.

Photophobia

Light sensitivity to an uncomfortable degree; usually symptomatic of other ocular disorders or diseases.

Pigmentation

The color throughout something.

Presbyopia

A decrease in accommodative power (focusing at near) caused by the increasing inelasticity of the lens-ciliary muscle mechanism that occurs approximately anytime after the age of 40.

Prism lenses

Special triangle-shaped lenses that are incorporated into regular eyeglasses, to redirect the rays of light entering the eye, resulting in a realignment of the eyes or, in some cases, a shifting of image to permit binocular vision.

Refraction/Refractive Error

The bending of light rays to focus on the retina. A refractive error is a condition such as myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism, caused by corneal irregularities, in which parallel rays of light are not brought in focus on the retina because of a defect in the shape of the eyeball or the refractive media of the eye.

Spherical lens

A lens that's shape is a segment of a sphere. A convex (plus) lens is thicker in the center and is used to correct hyperopia; a concave (minus) lens is used to correct myopia. Other types of spherical lenses are biconvex (when both surfaces curve outward), plano-convex (a single-sided curve), biconcave (both surfaces curving inward), and plano-concave (when only one surface curves inward).

Strabismus

An extrinsic muscle imbalance that causes misalignment of the eyes; includes exotropia, esotropia, hypertropia, and hypotropia.

Visual acuity

The sharpness of vision with respect to the ability to distinguish detail, often measured as the eye's ability to distinguish the details and shapes of objects at a designated distance; involves central (macular) vision.

HOW TO HELP STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS OR BLINDNESS?

Do you want to know the latest inventions for the blind and visually impaired people?

"MIT develops a vibrating wearable to help people with visual impairments navigate"

"World's First Braille Smartwatch Lets Blind People Feel Messages on Screen"

"BlindPAD's tablet makes visual information tactile for the vision-impaired"

"Make Your Own Tactile Vest"

Were any of those headlines reached your newsfeed? Probably yes. In fact, they garnered the most liked and shared topics about “blind and visually impaired” in the world of social media.

From the simple to the most complex one, time and again several innovations and inventions were made and discovered. Why? Is it because of need, love, concern, passion, frustrations, or money? For whatever reasons, they geared towards one goal, to at least make the lives of the blind and visually impaired people a little better!

SIGNS OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

- Eyes that don't move together when following an object or a face
- Crossed eyes, eyes that turn out or in, eyes that flutter from side to side or up and down, or eyes that do not seem to focus
- Eyes that bulge, dance, or bounce in rapid rhythmic movements
- Pupils that are unequal in size or that appear white instead of black
- Repeated shutting or covering of one eye (as noticed with Julian)
- Unusual degree of clumsiness, such as frequent bumping into things or knocking things over
- Frequent squinting, blinking, eye-rubbing, or face crunching, especially when there's no bright light present
- Sitting too close to the TV or holding toys and books too close to the face
- Avoiding tasks and activities that require good vision

UNDERSTANDING HOW CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS LEARN

Children with visual impairments can certainly learn and do learn well, but they lack the easy access to visual learning that sighted children have. The enormous amount of learning that takes place via vision must now be achieved using other senses and methods.

Hands are a primary information-gathering tool for children with visual impairments. So are the senses of smell, touch, taste, and hearing. Until the child holds the “thing” to be learned and explores its dimensions—let us say, a stuffed animal, a dog, a salt shaker, or a CD player—he or she cannot grasp its details. That is why sensory learning is so powerful for children with visual impairment and why they need to have as many opportunities as possible to experience objects directly and sensorially.

Families, friends, and others can support sensorial learning in many ways.

*“Mmmm. Do you smell dinner?” appeals to the child’s sense of smell.
“Listen to that bird singing outside” calls to the child’s hearing. You might also say,
“That’s a robin,” which gives the child a name for the bird that sings the song he or
she is hearing.*

*“Your clothes are so soft today” speaks to the child’s sense of touch and helps the
child build a picture of the “whole” from the many details.*

Being able to see enables us to capture the “whole” of an object immediately. This isn’t so for children with a visual impairment. They cannot see the “whole,” they have to work from the details up to build an understanding of the whole.

EDUCATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Children with visual impairments need to learn the same subjects and academic skills as their sighted peers, although they will probably do so in adapted ways. They must also learn an expanded set of skills that are distinctly vision-related, including learning how to:

- move about safely and independently, which is known as orientation and mobility (O&M);
- use assistive technologies designed for children with visual impairments;
- use what residual vision they have effectively and efficiently; and
- read and write in Braille, if determined appropriate by the IEP team of the child after a thorough evaluation.

These are just some of the skills that need to be discussed by the student’s IEP team and included in the IEP, if the team decides that’s appropriate. Each of the above skill areas—and more—can be addressed under the umbrella of special education and related services for a child with a visual impairment.

(Excerpt from [parentcenterhub.org : Visual Impairment, Including Blindness](https://parentcenterhub.org/visual-impairment-including-blindness))

SAMPLE IEP

INSTRUCTIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Electronic or enlarged paper copy of teacher
notes

Use of camera to copy notes from board

ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Sit near the front of class

Use white chalk on clean blackboard

Use dark markers on charts/ whiteboard
maximize contrast

Additional time for: visual activities, reading,
writing

Verbal directions to accompany visual
demonstrations

Large print material/ e-text

Use word processor for written work

Uses technology (laptop, smart phone) to
assist in organization and presentation of
information

Scans worksheets or requests electronic files

POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITERACY SKILLS

- Incomplete and/or distorted visual information interferes with concept development crucial to growth in literacy skills. Foundation skills, such as oral language and vocabulary usage, may be affected by lack of incidental learning opportunities.
- Visual impairments may negatively affect the child's ability to comprehend spoken and written words and may increase the length of time required for the mechanics of literacy (following written material, locating key information, organizing information to be referenced at a later time).

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

- Involve the student in the brainstorming process. Ask the student to make suggestions about environmental and instructional strategies that are helpful.
- Provide directions and instructions using the student's preferred and strongest mode of communication. Many students will benefit from a multi-sensory approach that includes spoken language and tactile information.
- Provide information to the student to indicate that a new task is beginning, the expectations for the lesson, and prepare the student for transitions to new activities. Consistency across routines will facilitate learning.
- Allow opportunities for repetition and practice of previously introduced material.

- Work with team members, student, and family to identify appropriate homework options and requirements.
- Provide access to visuals presented at an appropriate distance and in the child's visual field and allow plenty of time for descriptions and exploration of materials and activity.
- Use mutual exploration and modeling strategies (hand-under-hand and hand-over-hand) as appropriate to encourage exploration of materials and activities. Team members need to be aware of tactile sensitivity issues.
- Consider environmental adaptations such as lighting conditions, contrast between materials, and the use of tactile cues in the room to promote independence and mobility.
- Consider close proximity to the activity and teacher during instruction. Positioning of the student and the materials must be based on understanding the child's acuity and any field loss concerns. For example, a child who has a field loss on the left side will need materials presented on the right side. Accurate information about the child's vision and how that loss affects access to information are critical.
- Carefully consider the arrangement of the classroom so that mobility is encouraged and comfortable for the child. Experiencing a simulation of a vision impairment may assist the child's team in identifying features of the environment that need to be adjusted.
- Consult with assistive technology specialists to discuss possibilities of low to high tech devices for increasing independence and participation. Some students with visual impairments will benefit from light boxes to increase contrast between objects and background and/or other devices to enlarge or magnify print and materials. Other options include Braillewriters, closed-circuit televisions, and screen enlargers.

(Access more of the Strategies here: ttaonline.org)

FOR REGULAR EDUCATION TEACHERS

- It's okay to say "look" and "see." Even fully sighted people use their other senses in the context of looking at something. Visually impaired people might look at things in a different way, but "seeing" is in the perception (rather than the eye) of the beholder.
- Audiovisual presentations and demonstrations are made accessible to severely visually impaired students by providing verbal explanations. Read what is being written on the board and/or describe what is pictured in the presentation. Allow the student time to handle tactually adapted materials.
- Saying "over there" and pointing to something the student can't see are not useful with a blind student. Instead, spatial directions must be given from the STUDENT'S perspective. Remember that the student's left and right are opposite yours when you are facing the student.
- Seat or encourage the visually impaired student to come to the front of the classroom or presentation area in order to be certain that s/he hears all instruction/explanation correctly.
- Braille materials take an exceptionally long time to order and/or prepare. Textbook committee members should be aware of this and be certain that braille

textbooks can be ordered in January for the following fall so that they can be transcribed in time. Extra time may be required for math and technical books, as Braille mathematical notation requires a unique certification that many literary braille transcribers do not possess.

- Classroom handouts, especially those with pictures or diagrams, also require a great deal of time to transcribe into braille and tactile formats or verbal descriptions. Classroom teachers are wise to provide materials to be transcribed at least two weeks ahead of time, preferably on disk, as some text can be transcribed using computer translation software.
- Expect the visually impaired student to complete the same assignments as the rest of the class. Due to alternative media, assignments may take a visually impaired student longer to complete. An average of double time for Braille or tape is a good rule of thumb. Due to time constraints it may occasionally be necessary to reduce the number of examples to be completed for classwork or homework (such as in math problems), as long as the student is able to demonstrate that s/he understands the concepts and/or skills exhibited within each example.
- Independence is of primary importance! Be patient. Observe the student, silently encouraging independent problem-solving skills. Wait until the student asks for help and provide minimal assistance only as needed to build self-confidence and independence.
- Avoid leaving doors and drawers ajar or chairs out from under tables and desks. Either keep furniture consistent or inform and/or involve the student in rearranging.
- Address all students by name so that the visually impaired student can learn to associate names with voices of classmates. Address the visually impaired student by name as well, so he or she knows when he or she is being spoken to.
- Encourage the student's use of proper posture, eye contact as much as possible and proper social etiquette. Discourage any inappropriate mannerisms to maximize the student's physical and emotional health, as well as the student's social, educational and career potential.
- Always treat the visually impaired student equally with other students. This includes discipline and special privileges as well as involvement in extracurricular and leadership opportunities.
- Give the visually impaired student as many opportunities to help others as to be helped by others.
- Please don't presume that just because the student can't see and is using other learning mediums that the student is incapable. Try to allow the student to use their strengths in the areas they have to learn.
- All students, including those with visual impairments, learn at individual rates.
- Summary: As much as possible, treat the student the same as any other student and your example will encourage classmates to do the same.

(Reference: [Classroom Strategies for Regular Education Teachers who have Visually Impaired Students](#))

STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING

- Encourage the student to use visual aids/resources that have been prescribed (e.g. glasses, magnifiers, big-print books, etc).
- Seat the student appropriately in the classroom (e.g. in the middle towards the front).
- Make sure lighting is suitable.
- Photo of young boy against blue sky, being lifted in the air by two handsMake efforts to eliminate the risk of glare from the desk and whiteboard.
- If possible ensure lights are coming from behind or to the side of the student.
- Give clear instructions as the student may misinterpret gestures and facial expressions.
- Consider the use of enlarged print/magnified worksheets.
- The less configurations on a page the better (worksheets can be cut in strips and stapled together to present less work at a time).
- Print materials need to be clear and dark.
- Have lined paper for assignments (the darker the lines the better).
- Nearpoint work should be limited to fifteen minutes or less. The student should be encouraged to look away from his/her work, sharpen a pencil or participate in another activity as this will allow the student to refocus his/her eyes so that the student is less likely to become fatigued.
- Have students measure from their elbow to their fingers and tell them they need never get closer to their work than that distance.
- Slanted desks may be of benefit to individual students.
- Provide contrast on any visual materials used: black and white is best.
- Avoid italic or ornate script. Remember that lower-case letters are easier to read than capital letters because they have a greater number of ascenders and descenders, making them more visually distinctive.
- Supplement visual material with clear verbal explanation.
- Require less copying from the board or elsewhere.
- Increase oral activities.
- Use concrete material and hands-on experience whenever possible.
- Allow more time to complete tasks and provide breaks to combat fatigue.
- Do not lower expectations because the student has a visual impairment.
- Provide mobility and orientation training as students with visual impairment experience great difficulty in acquiring skills in direction, mobility and travel. This is particularly important at post-primary level where the student may have to move for individual subjects.
- Arrange for other students to act as buddies and use peer tutoring. Peer-groups should be encouraged to include and support the student.
- Use the student's name when seeking his/her attention.

(Source: [Special Education Support Service : sess.ie](http://sess.ie))

OTHER USEFUL LINKS TO STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING HEARING IMPAIRED OR BLIND STUDENTS

- [Educational Interventions for Students with Low Vision](#) by American Foundation for the Blind
- [For Teachers: Basic Tips For When You Have a Visually Impaired Student in your Class](#) by American Foundation for the Blind
- [Educating Students With Visual Impairments for Inclusion in Society](#) by American Foundation for the Blind
- [Visual Impairments](#) by projectidealonline.org
- [Suggested Teaching Strategies: blind and visually impaired students](#) by ncl.ac.uk
- [Teach a Blind or Visually Impaired Students](#) by wikihow.com

STRATEGIES FOR HELPING CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS TO DEVELOP LISTENING SKILL

- Provide ample time for children to inspect any objects presented for exploration. This may be time spent in addition to circle time, either before or after, describing the salient features of the object as the student manually explores it.
- Before students participate in circle time, provide orientation to instructional materials that are regularly used, such as calendars, name charts, counting objects, and pointers. Children also benefit from opportunities to practice with the materials so that when it is their turn to put the new number on the calendar, for example, they have a greater level of comfort and familiarity.
- Provide opportunities to practice the movements that accompany the songs that are regularly sung, explaining, when necessary, why they accompany the words in the song. For instance, when singing "I'm a Little Teapot," one hand is held up like a teapot spout, while the other is hand is placed on the hip, as if forming a handle. A real teapot should be shown to the child as a model during description and practice.
- Encourage youngsters with visual impairments to listen for the voice of their teacher or the person who is speaking during activities. Teach them to turn their bodies so that they face the speaker while seated. This will take practice until it becomes natural.
- Teach children how to raise their hands in response to and when asking questions during circle-time instruction. This, too, will take practice.

Strategies for Classroom Teachers

- Choose a circle-time seating arrangement that places the student with visual impairment in close proximity to instructional materials and actions. In this way the child will experience the activity more fully, and teacher support will be nearby when necessary.
- Use the names of children consistently so that the student with visual impairment will know who is called on or involved in an activity.

- Use precise positional terminology during instruction. For example, when directing students to point to or place an object, use specific language, for example, "Put the counting bear in the ones cup on the right."
- Encourage the child with visual impairment to participate during circle-time activities by calling on him or her regularly, with the expectation that the child can participate fully. In the beginning it will support the child if he or she knows in advance that he or she will be asked to tell the name of the day, for example. Prepare the child for what to expect.
- When presenting new ideas and concepts, link them to the child's prior experiences and knowledge.

(An Excerpt from pathstoliteracy.org)

TEACHING MATH TO STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Chapters:

1. Introduction
2. The Importance of the Nemeth Code
3. Producing Accessible Math Materials
4. Applying a Multi-Sensory Approach and Universal Design to Math Instruction
5. Technology Tools for Students Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired
6. Helpful Teaching Aids for Students and Teachers
7. Issues and Challenges with Standardized Testing
8. Final Thoughts

(Full Article Here: perkinselearning.org)

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- Large Print
- Braille
- Audio
- Digital Text
- Additional AME Resources

(Discover MORE about AEM here: teachingvisuallyimpaired.com)

BLIND ETIQUETTE: SIX WAYS TO BE GRACIOUS AROUND PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

1. If you think someone who is blind may need help navigating, ask first.
2. If your help is accepted, allow him or her to grasp your arm just above the elbow.
3. If you see someone who is blind or visually impaired about to encounter danger, be calm and clear when you warn the person.
4. Identify yourself when approaching someone who is blind, or when entering a room with them.
5. Don't pet or distract a working guide dog.

6. Use “people first” language.

(Read the Article here: perkins.org)

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” – Helen Keller

We are not affiliated with any bloggers or organizations in this article. But we do admire their advocacy and passion in helping educators, as well as parents, teach students with visual impairments and blindness. We thought that by sharing their articles will aid, along with the newest inventions and innovations, lift visually impaired or blind people’s everyday lives.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

References

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3. <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/FreeDownload/Visual-Impairment-Activity-Worksheets-5628411>
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