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The "Vision Plan" for Students with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)

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Perkins-Roman CVI Range Endorsed
Title of Session: The "Vision Plan" for Students with CVI

What is a CVI Vision Plan?

- A Vision Plan is a plan for developing visual learning.
- A Vision Plan is based on documented evidence regarding how the student uses vision and what helps and hinders accessibility.
- A Vision Plan is to be shared with all Team Members, including but not limited to, Parent/Caregiver, TVI, COMS, PT, OT, Speech Therapist, Recreation Therapist, Classroom Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Assistive Technology.
- A Vision Plan should be updated on an ongoing basis to reflect changes in the way the student uses his/her vision.
- The Vision Plan should be distributed and available in a way that all Team Members have easy access.

Why Develop a CVI Vision Plan?

- Because of neuroplasticity (or more specifically, visual plasticity), there are opportunities to increase functional vision when vision is used often and consistently.
- Uptick in Due Process Hearings.

What is in a CVI Vision Plan?

- A Vision Plan describes materials and strategies which create the greatest academic access for the student at specific moments throughout the day with regard to their specific routines, educational environments, and tasks (such as daily living skills, Orientation and Mobility, Physical Therapy, etc.).

What Materials or Resources Might be Used to Support the Development of a CVI Vision Plan?

The CVI Vision Plan is based on documented evidence found while completing the Functional Vision Evaluation (FVE), Learning Media Assessment (LMA), and Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC). Tools used may include but are not limited to the following.

- The CVI Range, developed by Dr. C. Roman-Lantzy.
- The Perkins CVI Protocol, developed by Perkins
- Learning Media Assessment forms and guideline.s, by Konig and Holbrook/TSBVI.

- Sensory Balance: An Approach to Learning Media Planning for Students with CVI, by Roman-Lantzy and Tietjen.
- Expanded Core Curriculum Screening Tool, developed by Dr. Wendy Sapp and Iowa ECC Resource Team, Revised by Karen Blankenship, 2009.
- Selected articles by Ellen Mazel at www.cviteacher.wordpress.com and others.
- Check out Paths to Literacy for more on the ECC.

Who Develops the CVI Vision Plan?

All Team Members create the CVI Vision Plan, including but not limited to;

- Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI)
- Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS)
- Physical Therapist (PT)
- Occupational Therapist (OT)
- Speech Therapist
- Recreation Therapist
- Parent or Caretaker
- Classroom Teacher

While all Team Members create The CVI Vision Plan, usually one individual takes the lead. That is usually the TVI. The lead person also takes care of updating The Vision Plan and making certain that all Team Members receive updated copies, sign for the updated copies, and supply relevant articles and resources.

What form or template might be used to develop a CVI Vision Plan?

- NYDBC CVI Activity Planning Tool; go to www.nydeafblind.org then click on, "Resources", then click on, "Our Documents", then click on, "CVI Tools", and finally click on, "NYDBC CVI Activity Planning Tool 2019.pdf".
- CVI Schedule from Dr. Christine Roman; go to www.cviresources.com then click on, "CVI Schedule".
- CVI Skills Inventory and Strategy Worksheet, found on page 71 in the book, "Strategy to See, Strategies for Students with Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment", by Diane Sheline
- CVI Schedule from PCVIS.vision, go to a blank search window and type in, "cvi schedule". One of the options will be from Pediatric Cortical Visual Impairment Society, and you click on that one. It will automatically be downloaded.
- CVI Sensory Balance: Learning Media Planning Worksheet, a form in the book, "Sensory Balance: An Approach to Learning Media Planning for Students with CVI", C. Roman-Lantzy and M. Tietjen, Perkins School for the Blind, 2020. You can also locate the forms in electronic format at the following Perkins link - click on Figure 7.
- IFSP/IEP Intervention Worksheet and Schedule, found in Dr. Roman-Lantzy's book, Cortical Visual Impairment: An Approach to Assessment and Intervention, second edition. Find the form on page 196.
- "The Vision Plan: For Children with Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment, 1st edition", by Diane Sheline. This book is expected to be available through Amazon by the end of 2026.

Suggestions for Successful Implementation of and use of the CVI Vision Plan

- Carefully consider how all Team Members will have access to the CVI Vision Plan.
- Incorporate Clear Photographs and images into your Vision Plan.
- Don't forget to consider CAPD (or, Central Auditory Processing Disorders) when developing your CVI Vision Plan.
- Incorporate ideas and strategies from a variety of sources.
    1. Make It Easier to See Project (Pilling, 2023)
    2. Paths to Literacy
    3. Ellen Mazel's Articles
    4. Pediatric Cortical Visual Impairment Society

Thank you for the privilege of your time.

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