

Academic success needs to be prepared at day care for children with visual impairments

To master the general core curriculum at school, children with visual impairments will need to be able to access it. To do so, they will need to be provided instruction in specialized techniques and skills. Those techniques and skills are included in the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) that students will learn through their academic years.

To increase future success at school, steps must be taken earlier to prepare the way. This is where educators and personnels at day care can help.

How to prepare children with visual impairments to become successful students?

It is important to start at a young age interacting more deliberately with those children throughout the day at day care than you will do with sighted children.

Why do we have to interact more with children with visual impairments?

Sighted children at day care will learn by observing and imitating what is happening around them (incidental learning). Children with visual impairments will not be able to learn through incidental learning. Thus, intentional interaction will be necessary.

What kind of interaction should be provided to children with visual impairments?

Here are examples of interaction that educators and personnel's at your day care should do to help prepare those children to become future successful students.

- Use learning by doing. Play with the child using concrete objects.**
- Expose the child to a variety of experiences and build on previous experiences.**
- Expose the child to various texture and shapes.**
- Encourage independence. Don't do everything for the child, but offer assistance if needed.**
- Allow and encourage the child to participate actively in activities.**
- Allow more time for the child to respond.**
- Describe the environment and sounds to the child.**
- Use descriptive language to narrate what is happening around the child.**
- Provide feedback to the child to let the child know you observed what he/she**

What are the links between your interactions and the ECC?

The ECC encompasses 9 domains, by interacting with children with visual impairments, educators and personnels at your day care will have a positive impact on children's development and learning for future success.

Additional examples for each domain

1. Compensatory Access

Being read to while playing with objects related to a story

2. Sensory Efficiency

Exploring different textures and shapes
Exploring familiar environments at day care

3. Assistive Technology

Being read to while playing with objects related to a story

4. Orientation and Mobility

Orienting in the environment to go to the bath room
Scanning the environment to find toys

5. Independent Living

Washing hands independently
Washing materials after art activities

6. Social Interaction

Participating in group activities
Taking turns during activities
Listening to each others

7. Recreation and Leisure

Participating in games and physical activities

8. Career Education

Being exposed to different workers in the community

9. Self-Determination

Being able to present his/her visual impairment when asked
Encouraging to ask questions

IMPORTANT

Listen to the parents about what they want, and discuss everyday successes and challenges of their child.