

ASSESSING FUNCTIONAL VISION

MELINDA ATKINS
VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRESCHOOL
SERVICES

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRESCHOOL SERVICES

- Provides educational services to children Birth to 5 who are blind/visually impaired across the state of Kentucky and Southern Indiana
- Currently providing services to 300 children
- Services provided in home/community based as well as some center based programs
- Medical documentation of visual impairment required

Importance of Early Intervention

- Much of the sensory information that is vital to children's development comes through the senses of vision and hearing
- Early identification can lead to medical intervention for some eye conditions that can preserve or improve the child's vision
- Each eye condition impacts the child's functional vision in a unique manner requiring unique intervention strategies

FUNCTIONAL VISION

- Refers to way children use any remaining vision during their daily routines and activities
- Gives insight into visual difficulties and how it affects their lives
- Is observable to the family and other caregivers

Functional Vision Assessments

- Assessment tools include ISAVE from The American Printing House for the Blind and The Oregon Project for Preschool Children who are Blind and Visually Impaired
- Parent Interview
- Observation in a natural environment

Parent Interview

- When possible ask open ended questions
- Give parents examples when needed
- Make the interview very conversational
- Assure parents that there are no wrong answers to your questions

Interview Questions for Infants

- When giving the baby a bottle does he look at your face and eyes
- Does the baby open his mouth for the bottle before it touches his lips?
- Does he have a favorite toy? If yes what?
- What does he do outside?
- Does he watch his mobile?
- Does he watch siblings or parents as they walk across the room?

Infants cont.

- Does the child blink at a camera flash?
- Does the child reach for toys?
- What does he like to do the most?
- Does he watch a ceiling fan?

Interview Questions for Toddlers

- Does he move to get a favorite toy or object?
- Will he play with stacking toys or blocks?
- Does he look at pictures in books and pat or point to the pictures?
- Will he move the book closer or push it away?
- When walking does he move well in familiar environments?
- Does he like to imitate finger plays or simple songs

Toddlers

- When reaching for toys is his reach accurate?
- When given a small container/bowl/cup does he put his fingers inside the container?
- How does he feed himself?
- What does he do outside? Does he point to cars, airplanes, birds, etc.?
- What does he do when he approaches stairs or steps?

Interview Questions for Preschoolers

- What toys does he play with and how does he play with them?
- Does he identify pictures in books?
- How does he respond in unfamiliar environments such as a store?
- Tell me about how he plays with other children.
- How does he color?

Preschoolers

- Does he play ball- Catch, Kick, Throw?
- Can he sort things or match items like putting socks in pairs?
- What does he like to watch on TV and where does he sit to watch TV?
- What shapes can he draw? Are they in imitation or upon request?

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