

# BLIND-LOW VISION EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM



## Why are early intervention services for children with visual impairments important?

Children who have a visual impairment are at greater risk of developmental delays. Understanding your child's visual impairment and how to support their learning will help give your child the best possible start in life. With the right services from skilled professionals, parents can learn how to encourage the healthy development of their child, including helping them learn the skills they need at home and to prepare for school.

The Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program provides support in your home, child care centre and community and is available for families with children who have a visual impairment from birth until school entry.

## How will I know if my child has a vision issue?

All children should have their first eye exam from an eye doctor at 6 months old, again at 2-3 years old, and every year after that. For more information on how to get an eye exam, please visit [optom.on.ca](http://optom.on.ca).

## What services are available?

For children who have a visual impairment, touch, hearing and the use of residual vision are critical for learning and development. An Early Childhood Vision Consultant can work with your family to:

- provide information and support for your child's daily living routines at home
- show you how to encourage your child's development through play
- help early childhood educators learn how to best teach your child when your child enters a child care or early learning centre
- help you access other programs and local community resources

(continued on reverse)

Your Early Childhood Vision Consultant will work with other community partners to coordinate services for you and your child.

Referrals to the Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program can be made by families or any health care professional when there is a concern that a child's vision may affect their early development. A medical diagnosis may be obtained while families receive services.

**For more information please visit:**

**[ontario.ca/childvision](https://ontario.ca/childvision)**