



Getting started for children with low vision

Here are some ideas to help you set up a learning space at home and to get started.



1. Make a quiet space where your child can do their work at home

- Find a place for learning where your child can sit comfortably at a table or a desk with their feet touching the floor to help them feel stable. Turn off the TV and radio when the child is learning.



2. Encourage your child to use their low vision aids/resources

- These include prescribed glasses, magnifiers, slope board, dark pencils or thicker pens, accessibility options on their tablet or laptop computer and large print as required. Use real objects and materials and hands on experiences whenever possible.



3. Provide adequate lighting for children with vision impairment

- Some children with vision impairment may require bright light and some may require dim light for an optimal learning experience.
- Look at your child's eye report or talk to your advisory visiting teacher to determine the lighting best for your child.
- For all children, make sure they sit with their back to a window and that the overhead light or desk lamp light is coming from behind or to the side of the child.
- For bright lighting let in natural sunlight and the use of a desk lamp may also be helpful.
- For dim lighting turn off some overhead lights and the child may wear sunglasses and/or a sun visor to shade their eyes.



4. Keep learning tools organised and in their own designated places

- At the place where your child will do their learning help them to organise the materials needed to complete schoolwork. A set of shelves or a storage container so that things used often, such as a hand-held magnifier, markers and other items are nearby. This reduces the need to constantly look for them. You could:
- Use a different coloured folder for each subject
- File handouts in the appropriate folder



5. Incorporate the use of markers to assist with place marking

- Markers such as fluorescent stickers, ribbons, blu-tac and adhesive notes can help your child locate certain places or questions in workbooks. Point to where your child needs to look on the page or device screen.



6. Scribing for your child

- There may be times when your child, for example, is tired or the lighting isn't quite right that it will be helpful if you write for your child. When scribing it is really important that you write or type what your child tells you, without correcting grammar so the teacher sees their work. Another helpful tip is to speak out loud as you write.



7. Fatigue

- If your child needs to focus on their tasks in shorter periods of time due to fatigue, try starting the day with some activities, then have a movement break, do some more schoolwork, then have morning tea or lunch with a relaxing task and continue alternating table tasks with other activities.