



Learning at home for children with vision impairment in the early years

Ideas for supporting children with vision impairment learning at home:

- Whether your child learns primarily through touch or by vision as well, concrete materials and real objects found around your home can help support your student's learning. These can be motivating and help make learning fun!
- Real objects can be used to help children focus on a specific idea, support them to make connections and build on what they already know.
- Your child may use real objects to represent an idea and then you can take a photograph to send to your child's teacher.
- Gather groups of objects like buttons or counters to learn about number concepts. These can be used for counting, making patterns and sorting by colour, shape and texture. Provide a way of organising these materials— a muffin tray or egg carton work well.
- Use magnets on a baking tray to represent maths ideas such as simple graphs. You can divide the tray or make lines with thick tape or by cutting up a magnet sheet (like the calendars your real estate agent sends you).
- Strips of blu-tac placed along the edge of the table or tray is helpful for holding a sequence of items in place.
- Playdough can be used in many ways - for example, ask your child to make some pretend sausages then cut up with a child friendly knife and fork or plastic scissors; make some playdough eggs to fill some playdough nests to practise adding and multiplication. Search online for a playdough recipe you can make with pantry ingredients.
- Look around your kitchen for everyday objects like cutlery and kitchen utensils. These are useful for comparing length, weight and material.
- Your child can write sight words in chalk on the concrete path.
- Practice braille letters by making braille biscuits sticking chocolate buttons/chips with icing on rectangle shaped biscuits.
- Science and maths ideas can be practiced by cooking. For example, full and empty, whole and half, liquids and solids.
- Use non-slip mats to help keep books and trays from moving about.
- Active learning is fun, try bouncing a ball or jumping on the trampoline as you practise your counting; move to music; walk like a bear, hop like a frog, waddle like a duck, slither like a snake; have some running and jumping relays across the back yard or down the hallway.