



## Birth to Five Vision Network

Serving Infant and Preschool Children with Visual Impairments


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### Organizations affiliated with the Network

#### Center for the Partially Sighted

[www.low-vision.org](http://www.low-vision.org)

The Developmental Optometrists at the Center specialize in assessing how babies and children with visual impairment, including those with multiple disabilities, are using their remaining vision. During the exam, parents ask questions about what and how much their child is seeing. Our optometrists respond with suggestions about how to encourage visual skills, provide a detailed report and discuss low vision technology when appropriate. Family Resource Specialists meet a family during or after an exam and provide a combination of emotional support and access to resources, services and education.



#### Braille Institute Child Development Services

**Braille Institute**

[www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org)

Braille Institute Child Development Services offers in home early intervention consultation services in the Greater L.A., Orange County and Inland Empire areas. Resource and Referral services are available to families and agencies outside of our direct service area. Early Braille Literacy is supported through our "Dots for Tots" designed for children from ages 2-5 which include a Print/Braille book, and enhanced audio recording and a toy that represents the main concept in the story. All of the life-span services available through Braille Institute are provided free of charge. Please view our website for more information.



#### California Deaf-Blind Services

[www.cadbs.org](http://www.cadbs.org)

California Deaf-Blind Services promotes positive quality of life for individuals from birth through age 21 who have both hearing and vision loss. The goal of the project is to facilitate maximum participation in preferred life activities. California Deaf-Blind Services collaborates with individuals who are deaf-blind to celebrate strengths, recognize unique needs, and develop personalized supports and services. CDBS staff are now available to answer questions online through the newest website feature "Ask the Expert."



#### The Vision Center at Childrens Hospital LA

[www.thevisioncenteratchla.org/](http://www.thevisioncenteratchla.org/)

The Vision Center is an international center for children with complex eye diseases. It is the only program of its kind in the United States with expertise in virtually every pediatric ophthalmologic subspecialty. Working in six separate institutes, its physician - scientists are helping children to see every day through the latest medical and surgical treatments, as well as cutting - edge research that will change lives of families across the globe.

#### Junior Blind of America

[www.juniorblind.org](http://www.juniorblind.org)

Junior Blind of America's **Child Development Programs** provide comprehensive early-intervention services for children (birth to age 6) who have visual impairments and other disabilities. Providing critical services for the entire family, these programs empower children to maximize their developmental gains while enabling parents to become successful advocates.

#### Infant-Family Program (ages birth to 3 years)

This in-home program helps infants increase visual functioning, sensory awareness, communication and social skills, as well as physical, cognitive and emotional development.

- Weekly in-home visits from experienced Specialists
- Visual and auditory development
- Cognition and play
- Social and emotional development
- Communication
- Fine and gross motor movement
- Self-help skills

#### Early Childhood Program (ages 3 to 6 years)

This program provides parents with extensive support as they partner with school districts and doctors to ensure their children receive the best resources and services in terms of education and vision care.

- Parent support and advocacy training
- IEP support and guidance
- Phone consultations and home visits
- Assistance during teacher meetings, Ophthalmologist and Optometrist appointments
- Orientation & Mobility consultations
- Family support groups and picnics

#### Blind Children's Learning Center

[www.blindkids.org](http://www.blindkids.org)

Mission: Blind Children's Learning Center develops the full potential of blind, visually impaired, and deaf/blind children and youth to lead independent lives. Infant Family Focus

- \*Provides services in home to babies and families
- \*Serves infant/toddlers birth to three years of ages

- \*Parent support, education and referrals Early Childhood Center
- \*Serves children 6 months to 6 years
- \*State accredited by California Department of Education
- \*Provides a loving environment in reverse mainstream preschool setting Youth Outreach
- \*Serves kindergarten through high school in itinerant model
- \*Provides educational and technical support for mainstreamed students
- \*Mentoring program gives school age student who are visually impaired a chance to model social skills to preschoolers
- \*Provides tutoring for school age students (right now free of charge)

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#### **Blind Childrens Center**

[www.blindchildrenscenter.org](http://www.blindchildrenscenter.org)

A family-centered agency serving children with visual impairments  
The Blind Childrens Center was founded in 1938, by members of the **Southern California Delta Gamma Fraternity**, to serve children from birth to school-age who are blind or severely visually impaired. The Center's goal is to provide a comprehensive program of specialized education and training which will optimize the blind or visually impaired child's development and consequent opportunities to lead a meaningful and productive life.

Center and **home-based** services are **free of charge** and are provided in a culturally sensitive environment. The Blind Childrens Center is funded entirely by private philanthropic support. There is no financial support from federal, state, or local governments and it is not a United Way agency. Support, with the exception of modest revenues from the sale of the Center's **publications**, is derived from **volunteer** and **staff** fund-raising efforts, which are supported by corporations, small businesses, civic and employee groups, charitable foundations and concerned individuals.

#### **Los Angeles Unified School District Division of Special Education Infant Support Services P.I.V.I.T**

##### **Parents and Infants who are Visually Impaired Together**

Phone: (213) 229- 4713

The Los Angeles Unified School District offers a comprehensive array of educational services to assist infants and toddlers, birth to thirty-six months of age with visual impairments, and their families. The family, the child's most important resource, is provided support for the formation of a secure child-to-parent attachment and bonding to optimize learning potential and development. Infant Support Services is committed to the theory that a team of professionals and the child's family working together provide the best support.

Learning activities emphasize the use of residual vision and the development of skills to compensate for blindness across all developmental domains: Cognitive, Communication Fine Motor & Gross Motor, Self-Help, Social/Emotional. A Developmental Guide for Infants and Toddlers Who Are Blind, a curriculum based on the clinical experiences of teachers of the blind is available to order by calling (213) 229-4713.

#### **San Diego Unified School District Infant/Toddler Development Program**

[www.sandi.net/infant/](http://www.sandi.net/infant/)

Our program serves children birth to three years of age who reside within the city of San Diego, who demonstrate a significant delay in at least one area of development or have a condition likely developmental delay. Eligibility is determined by professionals who review records, talk with families and identify developmental skills by playing with the child. When a child is eligible, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed.

#### **Saddleback Valley Unified School District**

[www.svusd.org](http://www.svusd.org)

The Program for the Visually Impaired

- An itinerant public school program based at Esperanza School in Mission Viejo
- Serves 50+ visually impaired and blind students from birth to 22 years of age
- Served by an Itinerant Teacher of the Visually Impaired, a full-time instructional assistant, contracted Braille transcribers and an Orientation and Mobility Specialist
- Students are served on 20 different campuses/homes
- A TVI consults with and supports regular education teachers, special educators and other specialists that serve the VI students

#### **Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind**

##### **Early Intervention Program**

[www.tlc4blind.org](http://www.tlc4blind.org)

Phone: 818-708-4948

The primary purpose of the Early Intervention Program is to offer children birth to 5, and their families, in-home and community-based services. TLC will create the opportunity for families to develop skills that will build on their strengths as they celebrate their child's abilities and meet their individual and unique needs. TLC's early intervention team provides a trans-disciplinary approach and aims to serve the needs of children with developmental disabilities and visual impairment or blindness. TLC's team includes an early intervention/child development specialist, vision impairment specialist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist and orientation and mobility specialist.