

## POSSIBLE INDICATIONS OF A VISION PROBLEM

My Child's eyes . . .

- look cloudy or have an unusual shape or size
- turn in/out/up/down or make jerky movements

My Child . . .

- looks through, rather than at me
- looks away to reach or reaches over/under objects
- tilts or turns his/her head to the side to look
- shows a preference of looking with one eye over the other
- doesn't look toward faces/objects
- is overly sensitive to bright light
- rubs or pokes his/her eyes

## IF YOU SUSPECT A VISION PROBLEM . . .

- Call your pediatrician and ask for a referral to a pediatric ophthalmologist (an eye doctor for babies and children).
- Contact Intake Registration at Cleveland Sight Center by calling 216-791-8118.



Cleveland Sight Center (CSC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency and is one of the most comprehensive service providers in the country for people of all ages who are blind or have low vision. Cleveland Sight Center provides rehabilitation services and other programs to individuals with a vision-related need. CSC's mission is to empower people with vision loss to realize their full potential and to shape the community's vision of that potential.

Cleveland Sight Center's services are accredited at the highest level of standards from CARF, an international, independent, nonprofit accrediting body.



**For more information, please contact:**

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# EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES



- Addresses the needs of children from birth to 3 years old with a visual impairment that affects development.
- Services are provided in the home or at CSC for families in Northeast Ohio.

**216-791-8118**  
**clevelandsightcenter.org**

## EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Early Intervention for a child with a visual impairment under the age of three will begin with a review of medical records and an individual assessment (using a nationally recognized measure called *The Oregon Project Skills Inventory*). Results are discussed with the family and other service providers and a plan is created to address development in the areas of cognitive, fine motor, vision and compensatory skills. The Early Intervention Specialist (EIS) suggests strategies for activities and provides encouragement to guide each family through the first three years of the child's life. Our program focuses on helping the child learn to use their vision and compensatory skills to increase independence in communicating, playing, movement and self-care.

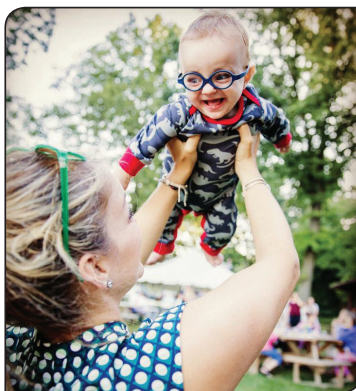


Our center-based program provides opportunities for children to interact with each other and our multi-disciplinary team while parents participate in a support/educational "parent group."

## PHILOSOPHY

The Early Intervention philosophy is that parents and caregivers are the most important teachers in a child's life. Appropriate Early Intervention services assist parents in creating meaningful bonds with their children.

Cleveland Sight Center staff collaborate with other providers including: Help Me Grow, local Boards of Developmental Disabilities, private therapists and physicians to provide a cohesive team approach to intervention to maximize the child's progress toward individual goals.



### FAMILY FEEDBACK:

"The support and education that we have received has been empowering."

"I am so thankful for Cleveland Sight Center and our teacher. They have been an invaluable resource and partner in helping my daughter reach her full potential. Thank you, CSC, for empowering me to help her!"

## PURPOSE

The goal of Early Intervention is to assist the family in understanding the diagnosis, teach specific strategies to encourage their child's development and help them gain the skills necessary for meeting the challenges of parenting a child with a visual impairment. Case management is provided to link families to resources, provide support and assist with the transition to preschool.



## SERVICES AND STAFF

Cleveland Sight Center's Early Intervention program is staffed by Certified Early Intervention Specialists with support from:

- physical therapist
- occupational therapist
- speech/language pathologist
- orientation & mobility specialist
- teacher of the visually impaired