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New Mexico School
for the Blind and
Visually Impaired

Cindy Faris, TVI

Julie Maner, COMS

Mark Carter, COMS



Birth to Three Orientation and Mobility New Mexico Style



EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND VISION DIAGNOSIS

EARLY ID/DIAGNOSIS
LEADS TO FUTURE
SERVICES

- ❖ PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS FREQUENTLY MISS SIGNS OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT
- ❖ MAJORITY OF REFERRALS FROM EI STAFF
- ❖ SERVING KIDS AT RISK ALLOWS OUR STAFF TO HELP WITH DIAGNOSIS
- ❖ WE SERVE MORE CHILDREN, B-3, THAN OTHER STATES
- ❖ CHILDREN RECEIVE TRANSITION SERVICES



TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

STAFF MUST BE WELL TRAINED

- ❖ INCREASE OF OPTIC NERVE HYPOPLASIA
- ❖ INCREASE OF SHAKEN BABY/NONACCIDENTAL TRAUMA
- ❖ INCREASE OF PREMATURE BABIES
- ❖ INCREASE OF MEDICALLY FRAGILE BABIES



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

DEFINING

OUR

ROLE

- ❖ OUR ROLE IN THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY TEAM PROVIDER MODEL AS VISION SPECIALISTS
- ❖ ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AS TEAM MEMBERS WITH KIDS, FAMILIES, AND AGENCIES
- ❖ CONTINUED STATE AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION
- ❖ MODEL FOR OTHER STATES

NMSBVI B-3 O&M Services in NM



**WORK CLOSELY WITH NMSBVI DEVELOPMENTAL
SPECIALISTS AND OTHER TEAM MEMBERS
EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF TOOL USE AND PURPOSEFUL
REACHING
TRY CANES AT EARLY AGE... NOT SURE HOW A CHILD
WILL RESPOND TO A CANE UNLESS YOU TRY**

Orientation and Mobility Definition

NM Family Infant Toddler Program



Services delineated in the IFSP that address purposeful and independent movement in children who are blind, visually impaired or are at risk for visual impairment. Services provided involve the development of skills including concurrent motor skills, sensation, environmental concepts, body image, space/time relationships, and gross motor skills. Orientation and mobility instruction is focused on travel and movement in current environments and next environments and the interweaving of skills into the overall latticework of development. Services include evaluation and assessment of infants and toddlers identified as blind/visually impaired to determine necessary interventions, equipment, and strategies to promote movement and independence.

NMSBVI B-3 O&M Guiding Principles



**O & M SERVICES SHOULD START WHEN A CHILD IS YOUNG
MOVEMENT IMPROVES COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING AND
INCREASES SKILLS IN ALL DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS
CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN BY
EXPLORING AND MOVING**

**MOVEMENT SHOULD BE DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE
O & M SHOULD BE FUN, BECAUSE CHILDREN LEARN BEST
THROUGH PLAY**

**CHILD, FAMILY AND TEAM CENTERED O & M IS MOST
SUCCESSFUL**

**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION ALLOWS THE CHILD TO LEARN IN A
MEANINGFUL CONTEXT.**

**CHILDREN LEARN BEST WHEN THEY ARE ENGAGED IN
NATURAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.**

NMSBVI Birth – 3 Years

Orientation and Mobility Assessment



- Demographics
- Functional Vision Results
- Parent Report
- Communication
- Sensory:
 - Auditory/Tactual/Olfactory
 - Gross Motor
 - Fine Motor
 - Quality of Movement
- Orientation
- Mobility
- Concepts
- Travel Devices
- Safety and Environmental Awareness
- Exploration and Learning

Early O&M Devices



Used for safe & independent standing & walking

- Push toys
- AMD-adaptive mobility devices
- Precanes
- Canes

Active Learning



- Children learn by doing until the developmental age of three.
- The actions of examining and experimenting with objects using their bodies is the foundation for the development of cognitive, motor, problem-solving and social skills.
- Our role in helping children with severe disabilities learn is to create environments that build on skills the child already has, to encourage him to use his body and mind for higher-level tasks.
- Dr. Nielsen has developed materials and approaches for use with children with sensory impairments and additional disabilities to help them be more actively involved with the world around them.

Lilli Nielsen



Does active learning fit into Orientation and Mobility?

Find ways for child to learn about his environment in an active purposeful way.

COMS can set up activities and learning opportunities.

Involve family and other early interventionists with planning activities.

Ensure activity is in child's learning zone.

Relate skills being used to future O&M skills.

VIISA training in NM



Active Learning



THANK YOU



QUESTIONS????