

Sight loss – Children and education

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Information sheet F5

March 2015

This information sheet is about:

- The help available from voluntary organisations for children with sight loss, and their families
- Education
- Further education

Help available from voluntary organisations for children with sight loss, and their families

If your child has been diagnosed with a sight loss, there will be a lot of questions you want to ask. There are several voluntary organisations that can provide useful information and support.

Look

‘Look’ is a voluntary organisation that provides practical advice, information about eye conditions and emotional support for children and their parents. It also organises regional parents groups and links families together.

Phone: 0121 428 5038

Email: information@look-uk.org (email hyperlink)

Website: www.look-uk.org (hyperlink)

Blind Children UK (formerly National Blind Children’s Society)

This organisation provides support to help children in education. It provides information, family support, educational advocacy, books in other formats, advice on technology and special equipment.

Blind Children UK
Hillfields
Reading Road
Burghfield Common
Reading
RG7 3YG

Phone: 0800 781 1444

E mail: services@blindchildrenuk.org (email hyperlink)

Website: www.blindchildrenuk.org (hyperlink)

RNIB

The RNIB provides advice and information for parents of children with sight loss.

Phone: 0303 123 9999

Visionaid

Visionaid provides information and support services, including a reference library and toy loan services.

Visionaid

PO Box 211

Bolton, BL6 9FW

Phone: 01204 64265

Email: enquiries@visionaid.org.uk (email hyperlink)

Website: www.visionaid.org.uk (hyperlink)

Somerset Parent Partnership Service

This local organisation provides support and information for parents of children with a disability.

Somerset Parent Partnership Service,
County Hall,
Taunton TA1 4DY

Phone: 01278 699397

Email: Help@SomersetParentCarerForum.org.uk (email hyperlink)

Education

Children with sight loss can face challenges in their early years and at school. There is a special service that offers a range of support for parents and children who are blind or partially-sighted.

Specialist advisory teachers

A team of specialist advisory teachers and teaching assistants, known as the Vision Support Team, has workers based at Wells, Yeovil, Bridgwater and Taunton, and provides a service across the county.

They carry out pre-school work with babies and young children under 5, and their parents and families. This includes advice and support with the development of babies and young children with sight loss.

Assessments of visually-impaired children of school age who are blind and partially-sighted. The Advisory Teachers can arrange for special equipment to be provided, and work with teachers to make sure the child has as much support as possible.

Vision Support Team
Byron Road
Taunton
TA1 2JB
Phone: 01823 334475

Further education

Young people with visual impairments can, and do attend local colleges. Appropriate support can be provided by arrangement with tutors at the college.

There are also national specialist colleges specifically for young people with a sight loss. The colleges provide a range of courses, training and qualifications.

Queen Alexandra College

This college has courses in art, design, media, performing arts, IT, health and social care, sport and hospitality.

Queen Alexandra College
Court Oak Road
Harborne
Birmingham, B17 9TG
Phone: 0121 428 5050
Fax: 0121 428 5048
Website: www.qac.ac.uk (hyperlink)

Royal National College

This college has courses in music technology, media, performing arts, art and design, massage and complementary therapies, sport, recreation, leisure, business administration, and office skills, as well as GCSEs, AS and A levels.

Royal National College for the Blind
Vens Lane
Hereford
HR1 1DT
Phone: 01432 265725
Fax: 01432 376628
Email: info@rncb.ac.uk (email hyperlink)
Website: www.rncb.ac.uk (hyperlink)

RNIB College Loughborough

This specialist college provides opportunities to take GCSEs, A levels and a range of vocational courses which include beauty and complementary therapies, care and health, computing, engineering, hospitality and catering, music, business studies, child care, leisure, travel and tourism, sports and performing arts.

RNIB College Loughborough
Radmoor Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 3BS
Phone: 01509 611077
Email: enquiries@rnibvocoll.ac.uk (email hyperlink)

Your opportunity to feedback

We welcome your comments about the services you receive. If you would like to tell us what you think, please either:

- Contact us on our website, www.somerset.gov.uk (hyperlink) or
- Speak to your social care worker.
- Phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224, or
- Contact the Adults and Health Customer Experience Officer:
Floor B2 East
County Hall
Taunton
TA1 4DY
Email: customerexperience@somerset.gov.uk (email hyperlink)

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