

About Sunny Hill

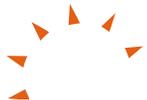
Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children is a provincial facility offering specialized services to children with disabilities, their families and communities throughout British Columbia. Using a family-centred approach, Sunny Hill helps promote the healthy development of children and youth by supporting families and community service providers in their efforts. It is also a resource for educational services and information about disabilities. Services are delivered close to home in a child's community, or on site at Sunny Hill, located in Vancouver.

How To Contact Us

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*Promoting Better Health for Children with Disabilities
through Clinical Services, Education and Research*



Phase 1 Strategies for Building Visual Behaviour

Children with cortical visual impairment have difficulty interpreting what they see. There is a communication problem between the eyes and the brain. Parents are in a unique position as they can assist their child to build looking behaviour through specific activities. Below are some introductory strategies to build visual behaviour in children with CVI.

Colour is Important

The child may have a preference for red or yellow but focus on placing the red or yellow item against a black background.

Movement is Important

Try items that are shiny which may include a shiny Mylar balloon or a pom-pom of a single colour.

Latency or Wait Time is Important

A child may have a wait time of 20–30 seconds.

Field Preference is Important

It is important to determine which fields are preferred. It is more likely to be the peripheral fields that are preferred. The lower field and the central field are less likely to be preferred.

Complexity is Important

It is helpful to keep the complexity of the target simple. It is also helpful to keep the number of toys simple, one toy at a time. Keep auditory and tactile complexity minimal, no talking or touching is best.

Lighting is Important

Turn the child away from bright light both indoor and outdoor light. Try attaching a light to a slinky as this makes a visually attractive toy.

Distance is Important

Present items very close, within 4–8 inches depending on child's acuity.

Novelty is Important

Take some of the properties of a favourite item and attach it to the next. For example attach part of a Mylar bag to a spoon. This will assist the child to visually attend to the new target, the spoon.

Position is Important

For a child with CVI a stable, secure position can be key to a child making the best use of their vision. For some children this may mean looking while on their back or side, while for other children a supported sitting works best.

Please see additional handouts available which describe strategies for Phase 2 and Phase 3.

