

How to refer to the Visual Impairment Program

Referral to the VIP can be made by your child's doctor, pediatrician, or ophthalmologist. To initiate a new or follow-up referral, the doctor must address or fax a written referral to:

Visual Impairment Program
Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children
3644 Slocan Street
Vancouver, BC V5M 3E8
ATTN: Health Records
or Fax: 604-453-8305

Urgent diagnostic referrals are processed immediately.

The Visual Impairment Program team members can be contacted by telephone at 604-453-8300.

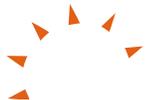
About Sunny Hill

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

Sunny Hill Health Centre For Children
3644 Slocan Street, Vancouver, BC V5M 3E8
Phone: (604) 453-8300
Toll Free: 1-888-300-3088
Fax: (604) 453-8301
www.bcchildrens.ca/sunnyhill

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



What is the Visual Impairment Program?

The Visual Impairment Program (VIP) is an assessment, diagnostic, and treatment planning service for children who have a suspected or known loss of vision.

Our goal is to provide a range of services to support children and their families, as well as their community professionals.

The range of services may include interdisciplinary assessments, community team conferencing, and community outreach.

Who is the Visual Impairment team?

The VIP team members are all specialized in vision loss. The team includes a developmental pediatrician, a nurse clinician, psychologist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, audiologist, speech-language pathologist, recreation therapist, social worker and vision consultants.

The assessment appointments will be tailored to your child's individual needs. Other health care professionals and diagnostic tests may be included.



Why are specialized services important?

Visual impairment can significantly impact all areas of a child's development. Vision loss can affect social and emotional well-being and the ability to learn new skills and to learn about the world.

Timely assessments to determine the diagnosis and extent of the vision loss is important so that you may access the help that your child may need.

“Children with a visual impairment or who are blind have special developmental needs and must be exposed to a rich and appropriately stimulating environment to reach their full potential.”

James E. Jan, MD, FRCP(C)
Founder of the Visual Impairment Program

What services are provided?

The VIP offers assessment, education, and community outreach.

ASSESSMENT

You will meet each member of your child's team so that information can be shared. This may be done through conversation with you, observation of your child, and/or more formal testing. When the appointments are completed, your team will meet with you and your family to discuss the assessments, provide information, and to develop a program plan. With your permission, community professionals who work with your child are welcome to participate.



Written reports are sent to you and to those you have identified as being involved with your child. Your written consent is required to release these reports.

EDUCATION

All VIP team members are available to provide education on visual impairment and related issues. Using research results, information is updated regularly and can be provided through workshops or printed resources.

Community outreach

Following your child's VIP team assessments, a vision consultant will provide follow-up education specific to your child's vision diagnosis. Community workshops may be provided. The focus of the community outreach component is on children from birth to kindergarten.

The VIP promotes early orientation and mobility skills through vision consultant visits, the Move and Explore program, as well as contracting some preschool orientation and mobility instruction. Once a child begins school, families have access to this instruction through the school system.

Our program has materials for loan particularly for children birth to kindergarten entry. Please contact your vision consultant.

