

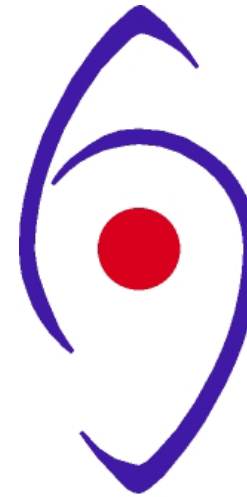
**Visual Impairment Services  
Highland**

**Visual Impairment Services Highland**

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With A  
Visual  
Impairment**

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## **What Do We Do**

- ◆ we can put you in touch with another family for friendship and support
- ◆ we can undertake a full financial assessment to ensure you and your child are receiving all financial benefits to which you are entitled

**Although a charity, Visual Impairment Services Highland are contracted to provide assessment and a range of services on behalf of Highland Council and NHS Highland**

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## **Introduction**

What do you do when you are first told your child is blind or has a visual impairment? Who can you turn to and what help is available

## **Our Children And Families Team**

Visual Impairment Services Highland has a team of professional paediatric vision therapist staff who work exclusively with babies, children, young people and their parents to offer you information and support at the time you most need it. We work with your child, introducing practical skills training to ensure he/she can achieve their full potential and are better placed to be fully socially included within his/her own community.

## **Working In Partnership**

Our Children and Families Team work in close partnership with our professional colleagues in health, education and social work services and with yourselves to ensure your child is comprehensively assessed and all appropriate service provision is in place

## What Do We Do

- ◆ the early months are critical in your child's development and, working closely with Ophthalmologists and Paediatricians, we can provide you with immediate support and information at this difficult time as well as offering practical advice on dealing with your child
- ◆ we can assess your child's development, functional vision and social skills as they are affected by the blindness or visual impairment; assess your own needs as a family
- ◆ we can introduce development programmes suggesting practical tasks which can be used to counter the limitations imposed of your child's development by the blindness/visual impairment
- ◆ we can help your child develop important skills through the use of play, to understand size and shapes and how things come together, e.g. the foot at the end of his leg belongs to him; help him to sit up, crawl, stand and move about; go to the toilet, wash his face, brush his teeth, get dressed, eat and play with his friends

## What Do We Do

- ◆ we will constantly assess your child's vision to ensure he is issued with the most appropriate low vision aids to support him; we will also encourage him to make the best use of any remaining vision and support him in its use of low vision aids and equipment
- ◆ mobility is the ability to move about safely and independently and is an essential life skill; it provides your child with choices, equality and a foundation for life; our staff will teach your child how to get about both indoors and out, orientate himself around strange places, use public transport and much more
- ◆ we can advise and help with leisure and recreational activities within his own community
- ◆ we operate a toy library facility, providing a range of specialist toys and equipment which your child can borrow
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- ◆ we offer you an opportunity to meet with other parents for information sharing and support; our pre-school parent support group meets quarterly
- ◆ we offer you and your family an opportunity to share in family fun days