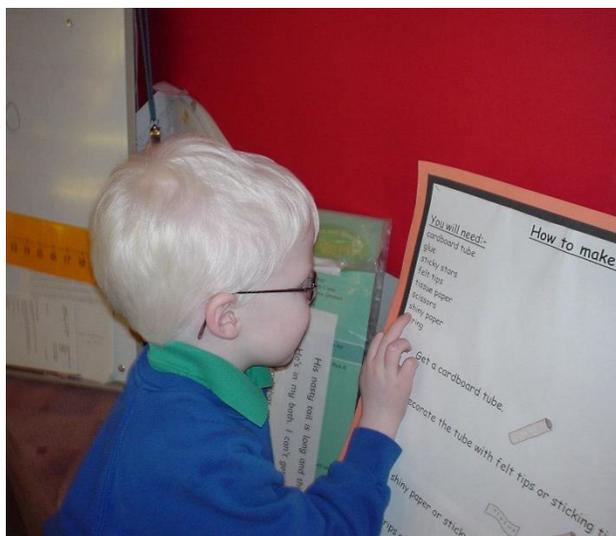


- Continuously pushing or poking the eyes
- Looking above, below or off to one side of an object, rather than directly at it
- Bumping into objects or falling over them
- Feeling for objects instead of looking with the eyes
- Sensitivity to light
- Sits very close to TV or computer screens.
- Tendency to avoid computers, reading or after school activities to avoid visual problems
- Difficulty making friends
- Wary of outside areas or tendency to stay near adults

❖ Signs of visual impairment

Visual impairment can be caused by a problem with the eye but also by problems with the messages from the brain to the eye and therefore the child's eyes may look normal. Signs of visual impairment could include:

- Eyes turning in or outwards
- Jerky eye movements
- Eyes don't move together
- Not making eye contact
- Turning or tilting their heads when using their eyes



❖ Definition

Visual impairment or low vision is a severe reduction in vision that cannot be corrected with standard glasses or contact lenses and reduces a person's ability to function at certain or all tasks.

❖ Identification

A high proportion of incidental learning comes through vision. Early identification is extremely important because early intervention will be most effective in enhancing social, physical and intellectual development.

❖ Support

Once referral has been made a teacher from the Vision Support Service will visit the child to complete a functional vision assessment. A support package will then be allocated to the child depending on the severity of their visual impairment.

The child will then be visited at agreed intervals and progress and access to activities and the curriculum will be monitored.

❖ Referral

Sheffield Vision Support Service operates an open referral policy which means that anyone who is concerned about a child's visual functioning can make a referral. Once a referral is made we will confirm with the eye clinic that the child has a diagnosed visual impairment.

Referrals come from:

- Parents
- Eye Departments at the Children's and Royal Hallamshire hospitals
- Health visitors/school nurses
- Schools
- Social Care
- Other support services

To make a referral contact:

Sheffield Vision Support Service
c/o Tapton School
Darwin Lane
Sheffield
S10 5RG

Tele: 0114 294 1201

Head of Vision Support Service

Joanne Hogg
jhogg@taptonschool.co.uk
Tele: 0114 294 1201

Link to Vision Support Service Local Offer

<http://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/kb5/sheffie/directory/service.page?id=PMqF2VmZ0xo>

Visual Impairment



**A guide to how to identify
visual impairment in children
and what to do.**