



Programs & Services



2550 Roslyn Street
Denver, CO 80238
www.anchorcenter.org
(303) 377-9732

Getting Started

Whether you're a parent, doctor, teacher or therapist who has concerns about a child's vision or visual development, we make getting started easy:

QUESTIONS?

Call **(303) 377-9732** or email our Intake and Referral staff at **referrals@anchorcenter.org**. Our team is ready to answer your questions, schedule an appointment, or invite you for a tour of our beautiful center.

NEED AN EXAM?

A **vision exam** helps determine if your child has a vision impairment. If your child has not yet been examined by a pediatric ophthalmologist or neurologist, Anchor Center, in partnership with Children's Eye Physicians, is happy to help. Simply call us **(303) 377-9732** or email **eyeclinic@anchorcenter.org** to schedule your child's appointment.

READY TO REFER?

Simply complete our **online referral** form at **www.anchorcenter.org**. Once a referral has been made, we'll schedule a specialized vision assessment called a "Functional Vision Assessment" (FVA) to determine your child's unique vision needs.

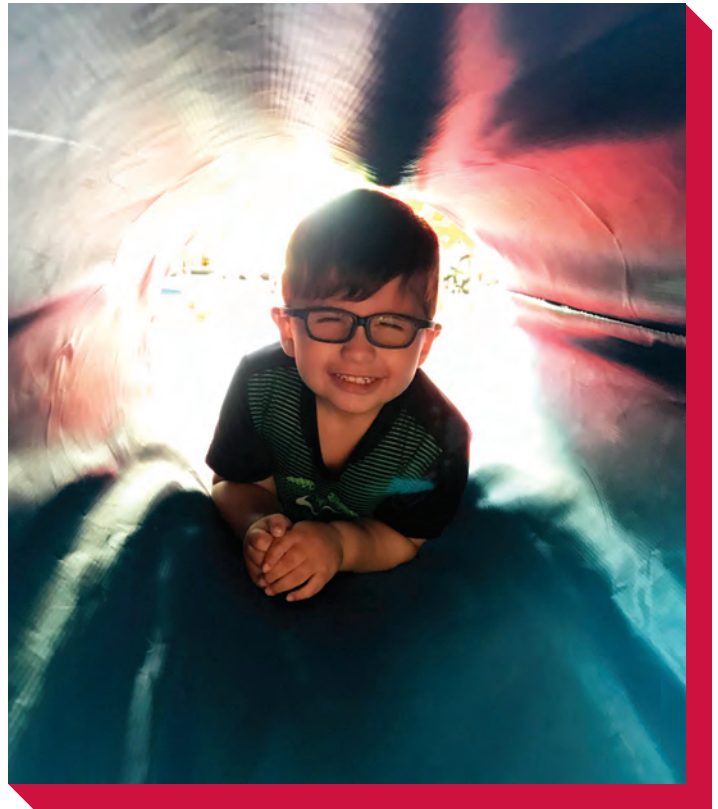
ENROLL!

Our warm and welcoming team will talk with you about Anchor's program options while guiding you through our easy registration and enrollment process.

Visit us online for
more information at
anchorcenter.org.

Common Vision Diagnoses We See

Cortical Visual Impairment
Nystagmus
Oculomotor Apraxia
Optic Nerve Hypoplasia
Optic Nerve Atrophy



Who We Are

Located in Denver, Colorado, **Anchor Center for Blind Children** is nationally recognized for our expert team of teachers, therapists and pediatric ophthalmologists. We excel at providing exemplary services (i.e. vision assessments, intervention and education) for babies and young children who have significant visual or vision/hearing impairments. **Supporting both the family's and child's journey in learning "to see life differently" is the hallmark of our programs, services and philosophy.**

Founded in 1982 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Anchor Center is funded nearly in full by charitable donations, including the long-time and generous support of the Delta Gamma fraternity. Although we do charge a nominal fee for most services, Anchor Center's **community of donors and grantors** make it possible for us to serve every child in need of our expert services, regardless of his or her family's ability to pay. **No child who qualifies for our services is ever turned away.***

What We Do

Anchor Center serves children and families at our state-of-the-art center, in children's homes, and in the community. Our highly specialized, comprehensive services include:

- **Vision exams and assessments**
- **Early intervention** for babies and toddlers
- **Preschool early childhood special education**
- Individualized and group **consultation, training and education** for families and professionals
- **Family gatherings and recreational events**
- **Respite care and summer day camps** for Anchor enrolled children, alumni, and siblings.

"The hardest step I ever took was walking in to Anchor Center. And the best step I ever took was walking in to Anchor Center. Little did I know how much we would all learn and grow!"

—Anchor parent



* Children must have a vision impairment or dual sensory loss of vision and hearing in order to qualify for Anchor Center services.

Programs

WELCOME ABOARD!

Anchor Center's programs are specifically designed to serve young children with visual impairments and their families. We are renowned for our transdisciplinary team of early childhood and vision experts. Our team includes:

- **Vision Teachers** (Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments/TSVIs)
- **Early Childhood Special Educators/ECSEs**
- **Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Instructors**
- **Therapists.** Speech/Language Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Recreation Therapists, Music Therapists
- **Pediatric Ophthalmologists** and "Low Vision" **Optometrist**
- **Community and Family Resource Professionals**
- **Families!** In our experience, families are the greatest source of support and expertise you can find. You, your child and family are on a unique path. At Anchor, we give opportunities for families to connect to other families who, in turn, support, encourage and inspire each other on their "vision" journeys.

INFANT PROGRAM: CENTER-BASED

Anchor's center-based Infant Program is held in our state-of-the-art building. From sleeping and feeding, to reaching and crawling, we work with parents and caregivers to address a range of concerns while building the foundation for each infant's early development and exploration. In small group settings we:

- Help families understand and work with their child's **unique strengths and specific vision diagnosis**
- Teach parents and caregivers strategies for **nurturing their child's development**
- Offer a baby-friendly, play-based, **learning environment**
- **Demonstrate activities** that can easily be done at home
- Assist parents in **adapting their homes** and other environments to promote exploration and learning opportunities.

Whether your child is an infant, toddler or preschooler, every day, children and parents experience transformation at Anchor Center.

TODDLER PROGRAM: CENTER-BASED

Held at Anchor Center, our Toddler Program helps toddlers and their families prepare for preschool and social settings by:

- Leading play, education and social activities **to encourage peer and social interactions**
- Teaching **safe, independent exploration and travel** in a variety of places (a.k.a. "Orientation and Mobility")
- **Exploring, tasting, and eating food** in a social and children's cafeteria-like setting
- **Fostering literacy** through story-telling, braille exposure and pre-reading activities
- Introducing participation in activities **independent of parents and caregivers**
- Practicing routines in **daily activities**

INFANT & TODDLER HOME VISIT PROGRAM

Anchor Center also provides **Home Visit services** for newborn to 3-year-old children. Provided in the child's home, our Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVIs) offer **one-to-one vision consultation and training to parents/caregivers and children**. Our TSVI's assist parents in adapting their homes and practicing techniques to promote and nurture infant and early childhood development, exploration and learning.

Our Home Visit families are also welcome to attend Anchor's robust center-based programs and events.



PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Children ages 3 to 5 years old attend our Preschool Program. Within our enriched learning environment, Anchor's expert staff of teachers and therapists team-up to prepare children for their next level of educational experience: Kindergarten.

The cornerstone of our highly specialized preschool is the **Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC)***—an evidence-based approach to early childhood education focused on nine areas of learning unique to children with vision impairments:

- **Sensory Efficiency**
- **Self-Determination**
- **Compensatory and Functional Skills**
- **Orientation and Mobility**
- **Social Interaction Skills**
- **Independent Living Skills**
- **Technology**
- **“Career Education”**
- **Recreation and Leisure Skills**

Visit anchorcenter.org for more information on our preschool programs.



PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

Our specialized support staff offer a variety of services to Anchor Center families and alumni, including:

- Education on topics of special interest to Anchor parents and caregivers: **play, behavior, sleep, mobility, feeding and development**
- Connections to **resources and financial aid**
- **Guest speakers**, including parents of Anchor graduates, vision specialists, disability and child advocates.
- Tools to increase **parent advocacy**, including support with Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- **“Sibs Shops”** workshops for brothers and sisters of Anchor students and alumni
- **Parent-to-parent support and socials**

TIME FOR YOU! (WHILE YOUR CHILDREN HAVE FUN)

We also offer opportunities for parents and caregivers to have time for their own self-care! Our respite and camp programs for Anchor-enrolled children, alumni, and their siblings, ages 6 months to 12 years old, are held at the place you can trust: Anchor Center!

- **Night/Day Watch:** held 10 times per year, on Friday or Saturday.
- **Respite Voyage:** 3-day respite camps held 5 times a year.
- **Anchor's Away:** our Summer Camp program for 3 to 7 year olds.

For information about, or to register for, our respite or camps call **(303) 377-9732**.

Visit us online for
more information at
anchorcenter.org.

In preparation for Kindergarten, Anchors' preschoolers are exposed to hands-on experiences, such as our annual Transportation Day.

** The ECC is embedded in Anchor's programs. Our approach gives young children with vision impairments, including those who have additional disabilities, opportunities to gather and learn from the same information as that of their sighted peers.*

Additional Information

- **Anchor Center partners** with families, hospitals and healthcare providers, statewide agencies, Community Centered Boards (CCBs), educators and therapists **to ensure children receive early intervention services specific to vision impairment.**
- No child is ever denied services due to an inability to pay. **Scholarships are available!**
- **Transportation may be available for local families.**
- Services include **interpreter services for non-English speaking parents.**
- For siblings under 5, **FREE sibling care** is available during Infant and Toddler Programs.
- **Consistent attendance is most beneficial for children.** However, we understand the challenges of juggling family, jobs, doctor appointments and therapy. Many families attend one day a week or even twice a month. Please contact us to discuss attendance options.



The mission of Anchor Center for Blind Children is to teach infants and young children with visual impairments and their families, providing hope and a nurturing environment where children reach their highest potential.

