

# Improving Systems for Early Interventions for Families of Children with Neurological Visual Impairments

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**Anchor Center for Blind Children**

Early Intervention Teachers of Children with Visual Impairment



# Statement

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Early screening and individualized intervention strategies benefit infants with neurological visual impairments

# Illustrations of Work

## Assessments

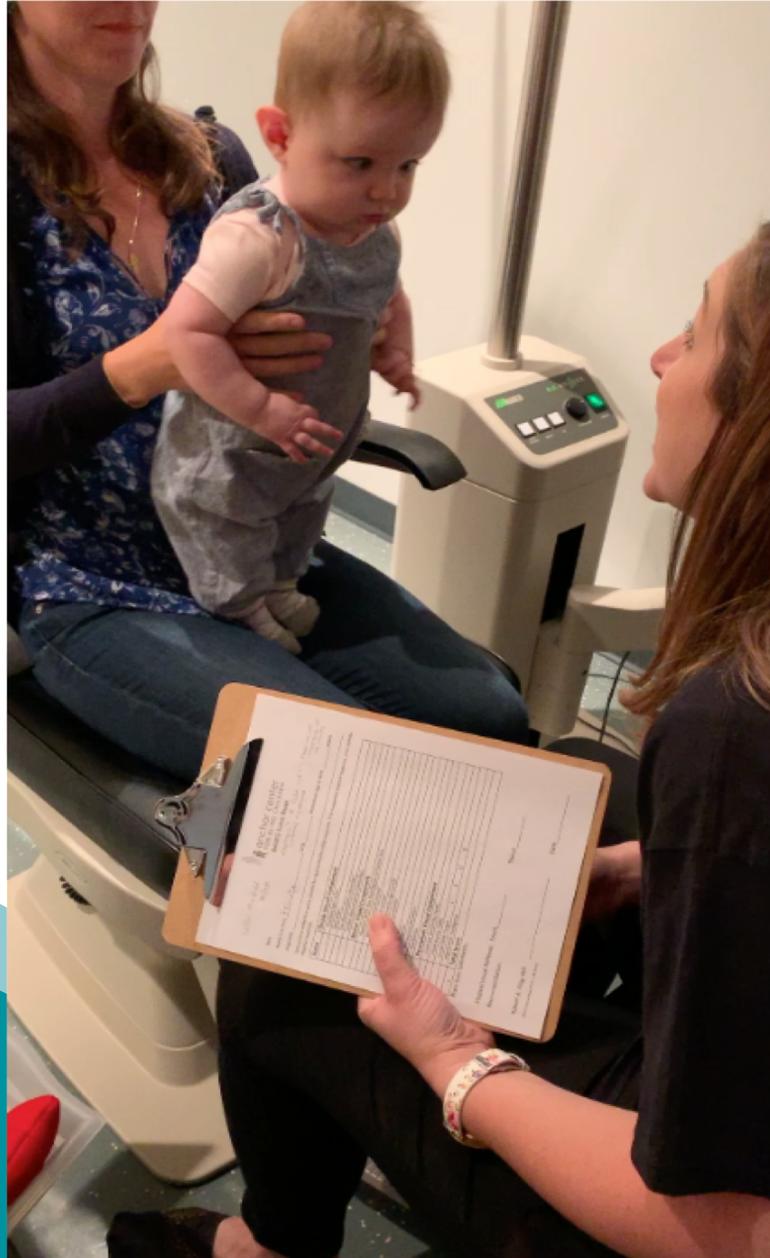
The Neonatal Assessment Vision European Grid (NAVEG) is a validated screener that measures functional vision in the NICU and with infants under 6 months.

The CVI Range uses a Parent Questionnaire and the 10 characteristics of CVI to measure improvement of skills that can lead to targeted interventions and show progress.

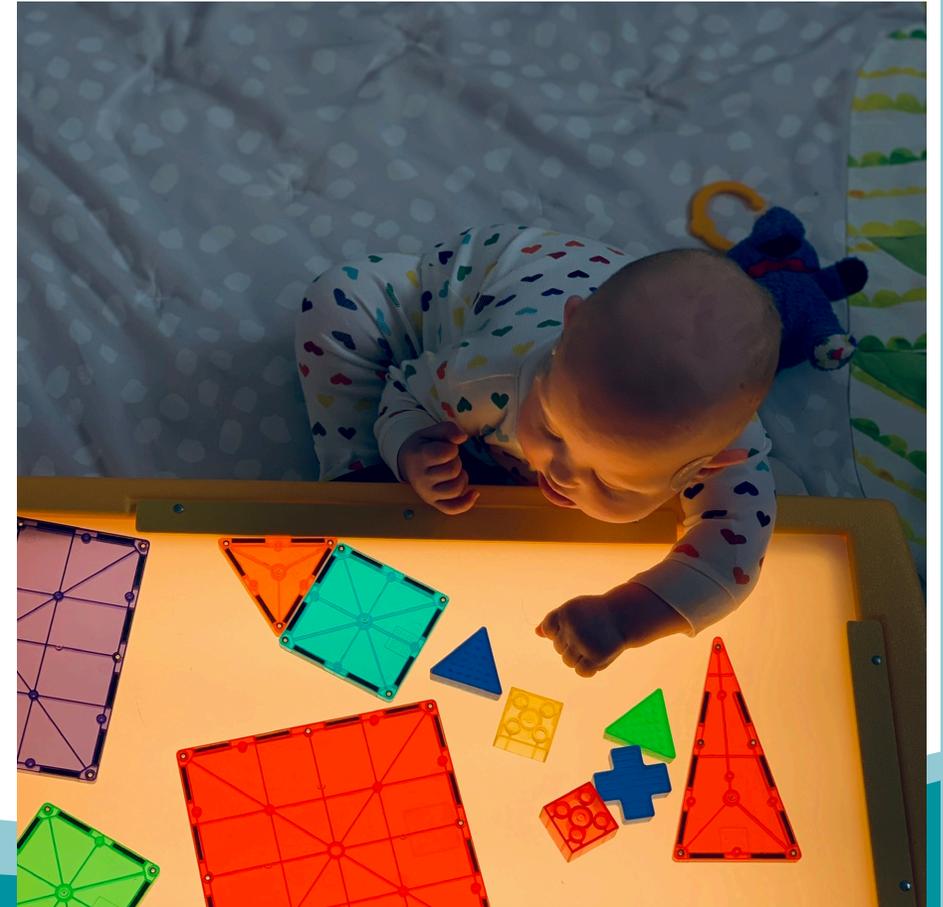
## Services

Family-centered practices include naturally embedding opportunities to improve on different areas of vision within the families' daily routines and requires teachers of students with visual impairment support caregivers to meet their needs.

The picture to the right shows a teacher using the NAVEG screening assessment on an infant under 6 months of age.



The picture below shows a child using light and color as an intervention strategy recommended by their CVI Range Assessment.



# Research Base

Neurological visual impairments (including Cortical Visual Impairment, or CVI) are the leading cause of blindness in children today (Lueck & Dutton, 2015; Roman-Lantzy, 2019).

Early intervention has demonstrated that vision drives development in all areas, including motor, communication, and cognition (Ortibus et al., 2011).

Early brain plasticity allows for improvement of functional vision in the first year of life (Ortibus et al., 2011).

Quality assessments, early referrals, targeted interventions and parent education lead to improved systems for families.



## Lessons Learned and Recommendations:



<b>Collaborate</b>	Collaborate with medical and therapy-based providers to increase early referrals and improve understanding of early visual development
<b>Provide</b>	Provide family support with naturally embedding opportunities to improve CVI characteristics
<b>Use</b>	Use the CVI Range and Functional Vision Assessment to guide intervention strategies

Collaborate with medical and therapy-based providers to increase early referrals and improve understanding of early visual development

**Provide**

Provide family support with naturally embedding opportunities to improve CVI characteristics

**Use**

Use the CVI Range and Functional Vision Assessment to guide intervention strategies

# Anchor Center For Blind Children will

- Seek training and endorsements in quality assessment practices
- Learn more about the success rate for families who use our practices through case studies and research
- Support the early intervention community with training and professional development about neurological visual impairment

# References

- Dutton, G. N., Lueck, A. H. *Vision and the Brain: Understanding cerebral visual impairment in children*. AFB Press, 2015
- Lueck, A., Chen, D., & Hartmann, E. (in press). *CVI companion guide*. APH Press, 2019
- Roman-Lantzy, C. *Cortical Visual Impairment: An approach to assessment and intervention* (2nd ed.), AFB Press, 2018
- Ortibus, E. L., DeCock, P. P., & Lagae, L. L. (2011). Visual perception in preterm children: What are we currently measuring? *Pediatric Neurology* 45, 1-10.
- [www.doi.org/10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2011.02.008](http://www.doi.org/10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2011.02.008)

# For More Information:

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Meet us Thursday October 8th, 10:00 a.m. for Q and A

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/join/87541698080>

Need to know about CVI Endorsees in your State?

[https://www.perkinselearning.org/cvi/directory?field\\_location\\_taxonomize\\_terms\\_tid%5B%5D=3900&field\\_name\\_address\\_country=All](https://www.perkinselearning.org/cvi/directory?field_location_taxonomize_terms_tid%5B%5D=3900&field_name_address_country=All)