

# Pediatric Visual Impairment and Assessment Center

**CVI Initiative**  
Promoting research and development for children with pediatric brain-based visual impairment to improve outcomes and support families.

The brain-based visual impairment known as **Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)** is the leading cause of pediatric visual impairment in the developed world. Originating from a wide spectrum of cognitive impairments and neurological damage, **CVI is seen as one of the most concerning public health issues of our time.**

**Anchor Center is a recognized leader at the forefront of research and early intervention strategies in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of CVI.** As we continue this work, we are building innovative programs to meet the needs of this unique population, partnering with researchers around the world, and leading the way in developing protocol trainings for professionals and parents.

Most children with CVI will not regain normal vision. However, early identification, assessment, and critical interventions make **significant improvements in functional vision possible.**

**There is no cure for CVI but there is HOPE.**

## Progress for pediatric visual impairment

Since 1982, Anchor Center has been serving children with pediatric visual impairment and their families. Today, Anchor's specialized staff including clinicians, educators, therapists, and researchers provide a wide variety of programs and services:

- Training, information and referral
- Assessments, exams, and consultations
- Family support and education
- Early Intervention: Infant and Toddler Programs
- Preschool: Early childhood special education programming
- Summer camps, respite care and community-based outings



## Meet the Team: CVI Initiative



**Elise Darrow**  
CVI Manager



**Dr. Melody Furze**  
CVI Consultant



**Dr. Cathy Smyth**  
Director of Research



**Dr. Robert King**  
Ophthalmologist

As part of a new program-wide initiative to increase assessment capabilities, train education teams and parents, and provide learning and leadership for all practitioners who work with children with brain-based visual impairment, **The Anchor Center for Pediatric Visual Impairment and Assessment** has developed key initiatives to address CVI and improve functional vision and outcomes for babies, toddlers, and young children.

# Our Work

## Research & Development

- Pioneering research identifying and developing effective screening methods for premature infants at risk for CVI in partnership with local and national hospitals
- Establishing standard of neonatal care for early screening and detection of visual impairment
- Identifying and developing evidence-based early intervention practices
- Standardizing and digitizing functional vision assessment processes and building metrics to provide guidance for practitioners and track results
- Optimizing systems for data collection
- Addressing barriers and essential access to resources and education on complexities of CVI
- Validating and demonstrating reliability of both currently used and newly developed assessment and intervention tools alongside a network of collaborators and innovators in the field of pediatric visual impairment



## Innovative Services

- Screening for CVI in newborn and infant population
- Pediatric Ophthalmological Examinations
- CVI-specific assessments and functional vision assessments
- Consultations with families, caregivers, practitioners, and providers to implement intervention strategies for ocular and brain-based visual impairments

## Training & Education

- Learning opportunities for professionals who work with early childhood populations with ocular and brain-based visual impairment
- Producing and offering cutting-edge trainings for practitioners based on evidence-based strategies and interventions
- Building advocacy skills and holistically educating parents, caregivers, pediatric healthcare professionals and students, allied healthcare providers, early childhood special educators and TSVIs, and family resource professionals



## JOIN US...

With your help and support, Anchor Center for Pediatric Visual Impairment and Assessment can make significant differences in the lives of the children we serve. For more information, contact Elise Darrow at [edarrow@anchorcenter.org](mailto:edarrow@anchorcenter.org).

## LEARN MORE...

[anchorcenter.org/cvi-center/](http://anchorcenter.org/cvi-center/)