Students with low vision will be introduced to the use of monocular telescopes as a way to magnify objects at a distance. An easy way to practice the function of using a monocular is by using a toilet paper roll and playing a game of ‘I Spy.’

Materials: toilet paper roll, pictures, books, objects, nature

Parents: Set up the activity by thinking what you want your student to find. When I do this activity at Anchor Center, I will tape pictures of animals/objects on the wall, or sometimes we stand in the hallway or an unfamiliar room and look for objects like a wall clock, exit sign, top of the door, door signs, fire extinguishers, coffee makers, sinks etc.

Your child will likely place the toilet paper roll monocular over the eye that has the best vision. If not, they may switch up whichever eye is more comfortable to look out of, and that is fine.

Make sure that your child stands still while looking through the toilet paper roll monocular, this is very important! If they are walking and moving around while trying to find something, they are at risk of running into or tripping over things and hurting themselves.

Once you have an idea of what you can ‘spy,’ go on the adventure and encourage your child to look for one specific object at a time. Give them hints about where to scan, be specific in those details (it's in front of you, on your left; look on the top of the door, scan under the table).

If the weather is nice outside, go for a walk and scan for objects outside. Stop signs, stop lights, red cars, mailboxes, utility boxes etc.