



BLIND EARLY SERVICES TN

VIISA Certification Curriculum for Cohort 2021-22

Format:

Three to 3 ½ hour sessions which include lecture powerpoints, videoclips, discussions, breakout groups, application, some making of materials mailed ahead to each and some activities they try at home ahead, readings, etc. Will put the course up on USU Canvas to access readings, assignment directions, powerpoints, a few key videos.

Text needed: VIISA curriculum manual, BEST providers need *Vision Assessment Booklet*, *Oregon and INSITE checklists*, *Living Life Differently*, *Communication Matrix*, some of the pamphlets for families from Blind Children's Center, *CVI Range book*, materials for FVA kit, early literacy resource from APH

July: Introductory Material

Session 1: Introductions (30 min), BEST Program (30-45 min), Training Overview (30 min), Vision Impairment and Effects on Learning and Development (90 min with breakout groups) (*materials to make a low vision simulator sent ahead*)

Assignment 1: Reading and responding to parent stories/videos Family Connect Website BVI or parent interview, book.

Session 2: Young VI Children with Additional Disabilities, Siblings, Early Intervention with Families including Virtual Visits, breakout groups included (*creative hoseplay toy materials sent ahead to use in class*)

August

Session 3: Developmental Assessment (Oregon and INSITE included), Setting Goals, Intervention Plans (using actual cases, breakout groups, etc.)

Assignment 2: Over the next month or so, for those with a caseload, doing an Oregon or INSITE on a child on their caseload, writing summary, goals, intervention plan.

Session 4: Use of Touch, Sensory Processing Issues and Interventions (vestibular, proprio-ceptive, smell, taste, hearing, visual) (*materials sent ahead to make texture boards*)

September: Vision

Session 5: Clinical Eye Exam, Ocular Disorders and Implications (0-5), Intro to CVI (silly eye glasses sent ahead)

Session 6: Functional Vision Assessment, resulting goals, interventions in daily routines, modifications in the home to improve use of vision (a few simple visual items sent ahead)

Assignment 3: Over the next month or so, for those with a caseload, doing an FVA and/or CVI assessment on a child on their caseload; pulling together FVA kit with CVI items

Session 7: CVI Assessment and Interventions, birth to three (materials to make early CVI books on black sent ahead)

October: Social, Communication, Language

Session 8: Early Bonding, Social and Communication (presymbolic signals and cues) (Eensy Spider song hand puppet sent ahead to make)

Session 9: Communication Matrix, Augmentative Communication (tangible symbols, switches)

Session 10: Formal Communication (speech, signs)

November: Active Learning, Cognition and Play

Session 11: Active Learning Strategies and Materials for Children with Multiple Disabilities (materials sent ahead to make playbib; scrunchie for attaching objects in hands; BEST providers need pegboard and PVC and items to make playframes as example for little ones)

Session 12: Cognition and Play at Sensorimotor Level, Concept Development

Assignment 3: Over the next month or so, for those with a caseload, create a playspace and some active learning materials to use with a more involved child, try them out, discuss what worked well and what needs modified, etc.

December: Hearing and Other Sensory

Session 13: Hearing (hearing loss, testing, amplification)

Session 14: Auditory and Listening Skills (quacker or canary stick sent ahead along with toothbrush holder to make into an auditory toy)

January: Motor, Orientation and Mobility, Daily Care

Session 15: Impact of Sensory Impairment on Gross Motor Development, Early Orientation and Mobility

Session 16: Motor Impairments Including Cerebral Palsy, Positioning and Handling, Adaptive Equipment (tube socks sent ahead to make into rice socks for positioning)

Assignment 4: Choice of assignments (e.g., co-visit with O&M instructor and a toddler, application of positioning and handling strategies with an MH child, or work on a daily care issue-sleep problem, feeding problem, etc.)

Session 17: Daily Care (eating, dressing, toileting, hygiene, etc.)

February: Literacy

Session 18: Early Literacy Experiences in the Home, Early Learning Media Assessment (*materials sent ahead to make concept book with white barebook*)

Session 19: Introduction to Braille and Getting Little Ones Ready for Learning *Braille* (*slate, stylus, paper, brailion, braille worksheets sent ahead for activity in class*)

Assignment 5: Writing a literacy plan with materials (some home-made) for use in daily routines at home with a little one.

March: Wrapping it all up

Session 20: Transition to Preschool, Needs of Preschoolers with BVI

Session 21: Pulling it All Together: Application with Infant/Toddler Video Case Studies, final training evaluation, next steps