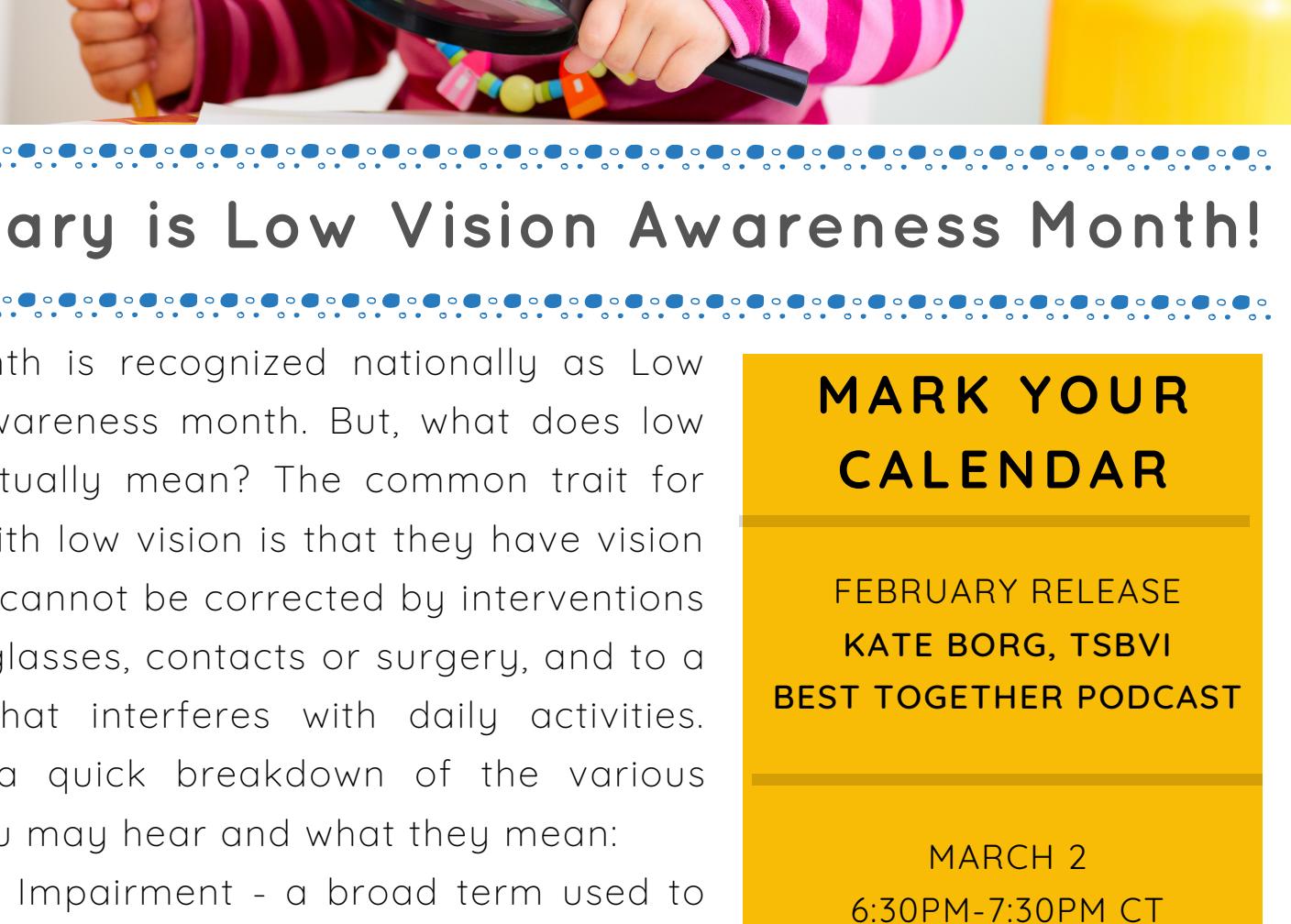




BEST NEWS

Blind Early Services TN - Newsletter for Caregivers and Providers



February is Low Vision Awareness Month!

This month is recognized nationally as Low Vision Awareness month. But, what does low vision actually mean? The common trait for people with low vision is that they have vision loss that cannot be corrected by interventions such as glasses, contacts or surgery, and to a degree that interferes with daily activities.

Here's a quick breakdown of the various terms you may hear and what they mean:

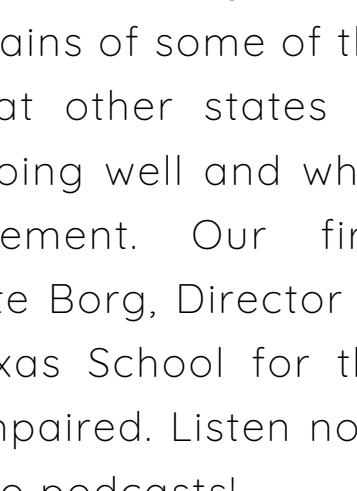
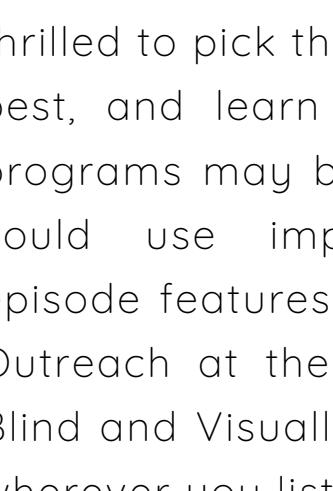
- Visual Impairment - a broad term used to describe a wide range of visual function from low vision to totally blind
- Low Vision - a person who has a severe visual impairment in which acuity is 20/70 or worse in the better functioning eye
- Legally blind - A person who has a severe visual impairment in which acuity is 20/200 or worse in the better eye
- Totally blind - a person who has no vision including no light perception

The most common causes of low vision are age-related macular degeneration (AMD), glaucoma, cataracts, and diabetic retinopathy. People can also be born with conditions such as albinism or optic nerve damage that can result in low vision. Thus, low vision can have an impact on people of all ages. Young children with low vision need specialized services and support to help them with development, education and daily functioning. Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) may use magnification devices, electronic devices, computer software, and other technologies to help children with low vision maximize their remaining vision and learn alternative ways to access their environment using their other, in-tact senses. The most common types of low vision include:

- loss of central vision
- loss of peripheral vision
- night blindness
- blurred or hazy vision



Perkins School for the Blind



If you are the parent, caregiver or provider of a child who you suspect may have vision loss, the best course of action is to refer the child or family to an optometrist or ophthalmologist for an exam. If you need help finding a specialist near you, please reach out to us and we will help. BEST is also here to help with our specialized team of TVI's, Orientation and Mobility Specialists and developmental therapists. Please reach out via our website or info@blindefarlyservices.org.

CVI NOW Creates IEP Guide for Families

CVI NOW at the Perkins School for the Blind has

a new IEP (Individualized Education Program)

guide for families and team members, featured

on their website. The guide discusses

assessment, interventions, and accessibility

rights, walking families through the entire IEP

process from start to finish. CVI (Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment) is the

leading cause of childhood blindness.

From CVI NOW: "Every individual with CVI has a right to comprehensive assessment, effective interventions, and accessible educational programs. A well-written IEP and a collaborative, dedicated school team empowers students with CVI with life-changing access. This is why we created the CVI NOW IEP Guide—a productive, solutions-oriented resource." The guide is divided into easy to navigate sections:

1. Starting the IEP process: A guide for CVI families
2. Anatomy of the IEP for the CVI student
3. What makes a well-written IEP?
4. How to maximize your IEP meeting

See the link below to access the guide now.

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!

[Click here to access the CVI NOW IEP Guide](#)

Starting this month, the BEST Together

podcast will be featuring interviews with

experts in the field of blindness and low

vision from across the country. We're

thrilled to pick the brains of some of the

best, and learn what other states or

programs may be doing well and what

could use improvement. Our first

episode features Kate Borg, Director of

Outreach at the Texas School for the

Blind and Visually Impaired. Listen now,

wherever you listen to podcasts!