

Hybrid VIISA Certification

APRIL - OCTOBER 2023

Participants will meet virtually and in person approximately once a month. Virtual sessions will take place on Tuesdays from 3:00pm - 6:00pm CST. Two in-person sessions will take place on Tuesdays/Wednesdays in Nashville, TN (8-hour days.) A complete list of training dates is available.

Register: www.blindearlyservices.org/events

Contact: info@blindearlyservices.org



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COST TO PARTICIPATE

Thanks to a generous grant, we are pleased to offer this year's cohort (up to 20 ppl) a small registration fee of only \$25.

This fee will cover training materials sent to your home for "make-it, take-it" activities.

OPEN TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS

VIISA training and certification is open to the following individuals that work with or would like to work with families of young children aged birth-to-five years old with blindness or visual impairment:

- Teachers of the Visually Impaired
- Early Interventionists
- Related-Service Providers
- Preschool Teachers/Administrators

REGISTER AT:

WWW.BLINDEARLYSERVICES.ORG/EVENTS

LEAD PRESENTER

Elizabeth Dennison, M.S., SKI-HI Institute, Utah State University

With Other Guest Presenters

Elizabeth (Bess) is a teacher of the blind and visually impaired with 40 years of experience working with young children with visual impairments. She received her masters in education of the blind and visually impaired from the University of Northern Colorado. She considers herself a practitioner at heart and has a passion for her work. Bess has been working with SKI-HI Institute at Utah State University where she coordinates the outreach training efforts for the INSITE and VIISA early intervention models. In her work at SKI-HI, she has written grants, developed curriculum and training materials, and conducted many training sessions in the US as well as overseas.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

Contact us for details!

TRAINING GOALS

The goal of this training is for participants to gain an understanding of and to develop skills in the unique needs of infants, toddlers and preschoolers who are blind and visually impaired and their families. This includes working with families and other service providers, things to consider when assessing developmental skills and developing IFSPs and IEPs, needed support services, intervention techniques and resource materials to use in all developmental areas (communication, social, daily care, motor, orientation and mobility, play, cognition and early literacy), developing use of all the senses (in particular vision, touch, and hearing), sensory processing challenges, special needs of infants and toddlers with vision impairment and additional disabilities/medical problems, and supporting transitions.

A Participant Home Study manual in electronic format with units containing assignments with readings will be provided. Five assignments will be required, some of which are reactions to readings and others which are to be done directly with children, if possible. Content and skills will be shared through lecture/PowerPoints, videoclips, discussions, small breakout rooms, observation and application, hands-on experiences and short take-it make-it activities with materials mailed ahead to each participant.