

Teacher of the Visually Impaired Services (TVI)

BEST is pleased to offer Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) services as part of our BEST Start program! If you are the parent or caregiver of a child with a vision impairment, reach out to us today to learn more or to request TVI sessions for your family.

What is a TVI?

- A teacher of children or students who have blindness or low vision
- Trained in the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), a curriculum specific to children with visual impairments
- Instruction is done by a certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI)

Why is a TVI important for an infant or toddler?

- Introducing a TVI as early as possible supports a child's overall developmental progress and independence
- Up to 90% of what typical children learn is through vision -- TVIs are trained specifically in the impact vision loss or the absence of vision has on a child's development
- Brings information to the child that they are not able to incidentally gain through vision

What does a TVI do with infants and toddlers?

- Helps the family to provide the child with a variety of experiences and tools to access their environment and to use existing functional vision
- Provides tactually interesting and engaging activities and strategies
- Supports the child in developing other senses (hearing, listening, tactile) to explore and discriminate within their environment
- Uses evidence-based practices to encourage developmental progress, independence, social interaction, and exploration
- Incorporates elements of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) into instruction
- Works closely with your developmental therapist, Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS) and other team members for a collaborative approach
- Conducts vision-specific assessments to inform goals

