

# Hybrid VIISA Certification



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BY BLIND EARLY  
SERVICES TN

**August 2024- March 2025**

Participants will meet virtually and in person approximately once a month. Two in-person sessions will take place in Nashville, TN (8-hour days.) A complete list of training dates will be available soon.



## COST TO PARTICPATE

Thanks to a generous grant, we will be able to offer this year's cohort (up to 25ppl) a minimal registration fee (\$50). Optional training manuals for those who wish to have hard copies will be available for order.



The registration fee will cover training materials sent to your home for "make-it, take-it" activities and lunch for in-person meetings..

## 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
- Orientation and Mobility Specialists
- Early Interventionists
- Related-Service Providers (such as OT, PT, SLP)
- Preschool Teachers/Administrators

# VIISA/INSITE TRAINING DEVELOPER

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

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.