

Education Habilitation Service Parent Information

The Education Habilitation Service will enable your child with a vision loss to make progress with their mobility, independence and life skills.

Who are the Education Habilitation Service?

- The Education Habilitation Service is one of the Birmingham City Council SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) support services, supporting children and young people with vision loss.
- We are a team of 3 fully qualified Habilitation Specialists and our administrator

Who do we support?

- Children and young people from 0 to 25 years with a diagnosis of a vision impairment.

Where do we support?

- Family homes
- Early years settings
- Schools – mainstream and special
- Colleges

Do you work with other professionals to help my child?

- Yes – we work closely with health professionals including Teachers of Visually Impaired, Physiotherapists, Ophthalmologists and Optometrists.

What support do we offer?

Habilitation includes Mobility, Independence, and Life skills.

- Body awareness - developing an understanding of body parts and how the body moves
- Listening skills - learning how to listen and what to listen for
- Orientation - knowing where they are at any given point and how to get to where they want to be, including how to follow directions
- Maximising vision - how to make the most of residual vision, including use of low vision aids
- Basic personal safety - including name address etc, what to do if lost and seeking help. How to avoid getting into difficulties when alone
- Road safety - from simple rules to complex crossings, the level achieved depends very much on age and ability of each individual
- Self-help - beginning with independent dressing and feeding skills and culminating in basic food preparation skills,
- Dressing skills

- Personal Care
- opening tins and packets,
- cutting, slicing grating etc
- weighing and safely using the microwave
- Social and life skills - dealing with the general public
- Handling money
- Using the phone, including mobiles and apps
- Learning acceptable behaviour and dress
- Using household electrical appliances
- Independent travel - may include learning cane skills before proceeding to specific routes. These routes could be in school, between home and school, to and from work experience, college transition, or for leisure purposes

What contact will I have with staff from the Education Habilitation Service?

- Your Habilitation Specialist will keep in touch with you by phone, email, virtual calls and in person, depending on what is required.
- You will also be able to contact them if you have questions, concerns or need some advice.

How often will support be offered?

This will depend on:

- Level of vision loss
- How much the vision loss is affecting your child
- If your child is about to start or change school
- If your child has other difficulties
- How often your child is supported will be reviewed regularly and will change if needed.

Who can refer my child for support?

- Ophthalmologists, Optometrists and Opticians
- Qualified Teachers of the Vision Impaired (QTVIs)
- Parents/carers
- School or nursery staff
- Health visitors
- Other professionals

Education Habilitation Service

c/o Priestley Smith School

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Further information for families of children and young people with vision loss can be found on the Birmingham Local Offer website:

https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/send_support_services_menu/sen-sory-support-vision/