



Vision Support Team

Team for Children with Vision Loss

Monocular Vision- Left Sided Loss of Vision

What is Monocular Vision?

We normally see with both our eyes, which is called binocular vision. Monocular Vision occurs where you have functional vision in only one eye.

Why might a child have monocular vision?

A child may have only vision in one eye because of a number of reasons such as:

- due to one eye being covered (patching)
- a visual diagnosis causing significantly reduced vision in the other eye, such as a squint or a lazy eye
- an injury to an eye
- or the eye may have been removed.

What difficulties might the child experience if they only have vision in one eye?

A child might experience the following difficulties:

- not seeing things on his/her left side until much later till they appear within the more central field of vision of the good right eye.
- poor depth perception- not seeing the height of steps/curbs in their true depth or not reaching accurately when trying to pick something up/touch something.

How can parents, family, friends and teachers make a difference?

- Support the child in moving around more cautiously, they may have difficulty with balance, feeling disorientated, their hand eye co-ordination and picking things up. Encourage them to use both hands for tasks when doing day to day tasks.
- Ensure that the child is sat near to the work board/at the front of the class and is positioned on the side of the good right eye.
- Be aware that the child may become tired, allow the child to have rests or breaks if this happens.

To support the child's field of vision:

Sit the child directly facing the teaching activity or with their right side to utilise the area where their vision works best.

- Have work partners sitting to the right of the child, to save them having to twist or crane their neck to see shared work or make eye contact.
- In larger group settings, e.g. assembly or when playing group games, the child should be positioned to the left of the group when facing forward to make use of their field of vision.
- The child should be taught their left from right at the earliest opportunity. They should be encouraged to decide where is best to position themselves, and to say why they should be positioned there.

Please note the font used in this information leaflet is called Verdana and is used because it is one of the most visually friendly fonts for people with vision difficulties and is also Dyslexia friendly too.

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

[Sensory Support Vision - Local Offer Birmingham](#)

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