

**Module: Family-Centered Practices
for Infants and Toddlers With Visual Impairments**

Session 1: Building Reliable Alliances

Study Questions and Answers for Recommended Reading I: Pogrund

Pogrund, R.L. (2002). Refocus: Setting the stage for working with young children who are blind or visually impaired. In R.L. Pogrund & D.L. Fazzi (Eds.), *Early focus: Working with young children who are blind or visually impaired and their families* (2nd ed., pp. 1-15). New York: AFB Press.

1. Describe the changes made throughout the years to laws in educational services for children with visual impairments as compared to children with general disabilities.
 - **1975-PL 94-142: Education of All Handicapped Children Act established services for all school-age children with disabilities**
 - **1986-PL 99-457: Mandated free and appropriate public education for preschool children with disabilities and established incentives for serving infants and toddlers (Part H)**
 - **1997-PL-105-17: Over 20 years after the establishment of PL 97-142, amendments to IDEA (1990) included vision services to the list of early intervention services available for infants and toddlers. In addition, OMSs were also listed under qualified personnel who may provide early intervention services.**

2. Describe the importance of having experts within the field of visual impairment collaborate with local and state level agencies.

Experts in VI need to ensure that the policies and procedures established by state and local governments address the needs of all children with visual impairments.

3. Describe the significance of early intervention for young children with visual impairments and their families.

Early intervention for young children with visual impairments is important because families need to understand the ways in which vision loss affects learning in the cognitive, motor, and social development areas and how to compensate for vision loss in order to maximize child development.

4. List two factors that lead to effective early intervention services.
 - **Caregiver involvement**
 - **Early identification of young child to receive early intervention services**

5. Describe the demographic changes that have occurred in the United States that necessitate the development of cultural competencies among professionals within the field of visual impairment.

Changing demographics of the United States: Hispanic population grew approximately 60% between 1990–2000; Hispanic population is equal in size with the African American population; Asian American population has also increased over the past decade.

6. Identify two reasons why the number of young children identified with visual impairments increased in the past two decades.
- **As greater numbers of premature infants survive due to medical technology advances, there is an increase in development of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP).**
 - **Births by teens have increased and are often associated with prematurity and lower birth weights because of poor eating habits, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, sexually transmitted diseases, and lack of prenatal care.**
 - **Later maternal age increases complications of labor, toxemia, and the occurrence of Down syndrome—all of which increase the chance of visual impairment in the new born.**