

Module: **Developmentally Appropriate Orientation and Mobility**

**Session 1: Foundations of Developmentally
Appropriate Orientation and Mobility**

Activity A: Interviewing an Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Instructor Guidelines

The purpose of this activity is to allow participants to interview an OMS about his or her preparation and current work with children ages birth to 3 years of age.

Time needed. 10 minutes to explain activity; 2 to 3 hours for participants to complete the activity; additional class time for oral presentations, reports, or discussions

Directions

1. Instruct participants to locate an OMS who works with young children with visual impairments and secure permission to conduct a brief interview. To locate an OMS, participants may: (a) obtain contact information from the instructor, (b) contact an OMS they personally know, (c) post a request on a relevant electronic mailing list, (d) contact the Orientation and Mobility Division of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, (e) contact the Academy for the Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals, or (f) contact a university preparation program.
2. Participants should establish a time for their interview. The interview may take place in person, over the telephone, or, if necessary, over the Internet (e.g., e-mail or chat).
3. Prior to the interview, participants should prepare a list of questions for the OMS regarding his or her preparation and current work with young children with visual impairments. Below are some sample questions.
 - a. Where did you receive your training in O&M? Did your training program have course work related to children birth to 3 years of age with visual impairments?
 - b. What are the differences between O&M for children under age 3 and for preschoolers?
 - c. Describe your current caseload. How frequently do you see the children and their families?
 - d. From whom do you receive referrals for children under age 3?
 - e. How do you typically begin to work with children and teams upon receiving referrals?

- f. How do you facilitate communication with other team members?
 - g. What is your philosophy regarding the provision of adaptive mobility devices to children under the age of 3? The provision of canes?
 - h. What strategies do you use with families to help them understand what orientation and mobility involves for their child?
 - i. What O&M activities do you use or suggest for children under 1 year of age? With children between the ages of 1 and 2? With children over age 2?
 - j. Describe some adaptations you make to your techniques when a child has additional disabilities.
4. After the interview, participants should send a thank-you letter to the OMS.
5. Have participants write a two- to four-page paper summarizing what they learned through the interview.
6. This assignment is due on _____.