

Module: **Developmentally Appropriate Orientation and Mobility**

Session 1: Foundations of Developmentally Appropriate Orientation and Mobility

Video Transcript: The Role of the OMS OM 1-03

EIVI Training Center. (2004). The role of the OMS [Video clip]. (Available from Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers With Visual Impairments, FPG Child Development Institute, CB #8040, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-8040)

Narrator

Jasmine, an African American toddler girl with septo-optic dysplasia, and little, if any, vision, is on a playground with her preschool assistant and her orientation and mobility specialist. As Jasmine approaches the wood beams (approximately 8 inches by 8 inches) on the playground's border, the orientation and mobility specialist prompts the child to explore a beam by briefly touching it with her hands. Jasmine stands up and moves along the beam following the voice of the assistant. Jasmine begins to wander to the right of the beam, but changes direction and moves to where her preschool assistant and orientation and mobility specialist are standing on the left side of the beam. Jasmine stops as her feet touch the beam and she carefully steps over it using her whole body. She falls to her knees on the other side near the assistant's feet. Jasmine stands up and playfully buries her face in the assistant's legs. The orientation and mobility specialist models the technique that she recommends for helping Jasmine learn to step over the wooden beam.

Preschool Assistant

There's a step.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Landscape timber, Jasmine. There it is. Look.
<whispers>

Preschool Assistant

Yeah, that's a...

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Yeah, be careful.

Preschool Assistant

So you need to step up if you're going to go that way. Where you going?

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Actually, come over here, and I want to see if she figures out what to do about it.

Preschool Assistant

OK. Come over this way. Mrs. Robin is over here.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

There's the curb. It's like a curb.

Preschool Assistant

Wait. You've got to wait. Step.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

You do it. You do it.

Preschool Assistant

Oh, fall down. Say, "Hello floor!"

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

That would be a good thing to practice, and what I want her to figure out to do is, that she needs to go down.

Preschool Assistant

OK.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Like this.

Preschool Assistant

So this would be a good spot to practice because it's not too far for her to fall.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Right, right. But you'll have to get far enough away from her so that she can't grab you. But close enough to catch her if she really is going face first.

Preschool Assistant

I can't let her fall on her knees, OK. I can let her fall on her knees. I can't do the face thing. Say, "Mrs. Robin has her limits."

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

No, we wouldn't want you to do that.

Preschool Assistant

Mrs. Robin has her limits, huh?

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

That is such a cute face. We don't want to mess it up.

Preschool Assistant

And those baby back ribs.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Does that make sense to you, Robin?

Preschool Assistant

Yes, it makes good sense. And this is perfect because it's grass, and it's not too high. That will be perfect.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

And that makes her get her hands down and also it's kind of a cognitive thing--problem-solving, motor-planning types of things.

Preschool Assistant

<to Jasmine> What are you doing? What are you doing?

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Should we go in? And I would love to see her with the cart.

Preschool Assistant

OK. Do you want to go to the gym?

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Is there anything else outside that, that you have questions about?

Preschool Assistant

No, because, um, well, this. Now I've got a good handle on where I should be going. I didn't realize the crawling. I should have been doing this much, making her crawl, so that, we'll do that a lot more.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Yeah, and you know she's not posturally able um, to go up or, and definitely not down. When she takes a step downward, she is real unstable.

Preschool Assistant

Right.