

Module: **Visual Conditions and Functional Vision:
Early Intervention Issues**

**Session 1: Working With Families and
Eye Care Professionals**

Activity I: Accompanying a Family to an Eye Care Specialist Exam

Instructor Guidelines

The purpose of this activity is for participants to accompany a TVI and family on an eye care visit and observe the various components of the exam.

Time needed. No class time (out-of-class assignment)

Directions

1. Participants should identify an early interventionist who will allow them to accompany her or him and a family to an eye care specialist appointment (from their practice or work site or elsewhere). Participants should secure permission from the family to attend and observe the eye care specialist appointment prior to the actual appointment. The early interventionist may also wish to secure permission from the eye care specialist. Review confidentiality issues and the need for release of information or exchange of information forms.
2. Before the visit with the family to the eye care specialist, participants should interview the early interventionist and ask the questions listed below.
 - a. Are you the primary home visitor/early interventionist for this child and family or a consultant to the primary home visitor?
 - b. What can you tell me about the child's visual condition?
 - c. How do you assist the family in preparing for the eye exam?
 - d. What is your role when accompanying families to the eye exam?
 - e. How do you communicate with the eye care specialist?
3. Participants should observe the eye exam, and take notes to address the questions listed below.
 - a. Does the eye care specialist answer the family's questions and seeking their input?
 - b. Does the eye care specialist use jargon-free language and clearly explain procedures and options to the family?

- c. What is the role of the early interventionist during the eye care specialist exam? Does he/she provide support to the family? If so, how? Does he/she facilitate communication between the eye care specialist and family? If so, how?
4. Participants should write a brief reflection paper (two to four pages) that addresses the questions and considerations above and includes perceptions on how they may have done things differently if they were the early interventionist. They should explain how they would follow-up with the family and the eye care specialist after the exam. This paper is due on _____ (supply date).