

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

Session 1: Working With Families and Eye Care Professionals

Activity G: Writing a Letter to the Eye Care Specialist

Participant Guidelines

The purpose of this activity is for participants to write a letter of introduction for a child with a visual impairment and a brief overview of a child's functional visual abilities within daily routines and activity settings.

Materials. Video clip VCM 1-07, "Observation of Child Visual Behaviors"

Directions

Read the background information that is attached about Rachel and her family. Watch video clip VCM 1-07 and take notes on Rachel's visual behaviors. Based on the information you now have about Rachel, write a one-page letter of introduction to Dr. Frayer, the pediatric ophthalmologist who will be seeing Rachel in one month. Include in the letter

- a summary of Rachel's history,
- three or four examples or occasions when you observed Rachel using her vision (be sure to include the environmental conditions, the activity, and how Rachel accomplished the activity), and
- questions or concerns you have about how Rachel uses or does not use her vision to accomplish tasks.

Rachel's Background Information

Child's Name: Rachel

Parents: P.C. & Bob

Age at Time of Report: 2 years, 5 months

Ophthalmological/optometric information

By parent report, the family pediatrician initially referred Rachel and her family to an eye specialist at 4 months of age. After visiting three specialists, the fourth diagnosed Rachel with Peter's anomaly (i.e., abnormalities of corneal development, bilateral adhesions to the cornea, cataracts, and bilateral glaucoma). Since receiving the diagnosis, Rachel has undergone bilateral corneal transplants, cataract removal, and bilateral glaucoma surgeries. Due to inconsistent behaviors and testing environments, Rachel's visual acuity has been estimated between 20/280 and 20/460 using Teller Vision Acuity Cards. Rachel wears glasses; however, her parents and the TVI have observed her looking over, rather than through, the lenses.

Background information

Rachel was delivered by cesarean section at 40 weeks' gestation. P.C. and Bob recall noticing almost immediately that something appeared abnormal with Rachel's eyes. Months later Rachel was diagnosed with Peter's anomaly, a maternally inherited condition. Rachel has one older brother who has no visual difficulties.

Rachel's mother, P.C., and the TVI both report that Rachel is extremely photophobic. Typically, Rachel holds objects and toys approximately 8-10 inches away from her face and will decrease the visual distance upon close inspection. Rachel also uses her vision to navigate around her home; however, she does so inconsistently due to variations in environmental lighting. Rachel's mother and the TVI report that her distance vision appears to be better than her near vision.