

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

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

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

Participant 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.

Directions

1. Identify an early interventionist (from your practica, work site, or elsewhere) who will allow you to accompany her or him and a family to an eye care specialist appointment. Ask the early interventionist to secure permission from the family for you to accompany them to the eye care specialist appointment prior to the actual appointment. The early interventionist may also wish to secure permission from the eye care specialist. Maintain family and professional confidentiality throughout this assignment.
2. Before the visit with the family to the eye care specialist, 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. As you observe the eye exam, take notes to address the following questions below.
 - a. Does the eye care specialist answer the family's questions and seek 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 or she provide support to the family? If so, how? Does he or she facilitate communication between the eye care specialist and family? If so, how?
4. Write a brief reflection paper (two to four pages) that addresses the questions and considerations above. Share your perceptions on how you may have done things differently if you were the early interventionist. Explain how you would follow up with the family and the eye care specialist after the exam. This paper is due on _____.