

## Tri-Regional Blind-Low Vision Program: PROFESSIONALS AND OTHER TERMS

**Assistive technology** Device or equipment that helps individuals with disabilities function more independently (e.g., CCTVs, magnifiers, augmentative communication devices, reading stands).

**Blind Low Vision Program** A publicly funded initiative of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Twelve regional programs are available to serve clients in each area of the province.

**Tri-Regional Blind-Low Vision Program** The regional program funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services serving eligible clients who reside in the York Region, Durham Region, Peterborough, Northumberland & Haliburton Counties and City of Kawartha Lakes.

**Deaf-blind** Sometimes referred to as dual sensory impairment. A combination of hearing and visual impairments which require educational modifications. The Tri-Regional Infant hearing may provide the communication programming for children in their region who are deaf-blind.

**Early Childhood Vision Consultant (ECVC)** An individual who is a member of the Blind-Low Vision Program to deliver early intervention services and child care consultations to clients of the Blind- Low Vision Program.

**Early Intervention** Individualized programs of instruction and therapy developed for children to minimize the effects of disorders which may delay development and learning.

**Markham Stouffville Hospital** The Hospital's Child Development Programs offer Preschool Speech and Language Services. It is also the Lead agency for the Tri-Regional Blind-Low Vision Program and the Tri-Regional Infant Hearing Program.

**Family Support Worker (FSW)** A master's level (or equivalent) social worker in the Blind-Low Vision Program who assists and supports families in seeking appropriate resources and services for their child who is a client of the Blind-Low Vision Program.

**Family Service Plan** The plan for intervention services designed by the family, ECVC and other professionals, as applicable.

**Mobility** The ability to move safely and efficiently through one's environment.

**Mobility system** A guide or device (i.e. cane) which enables a person with a visual impairment to move independently through their environment.

**Neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)** Specialized unit in a hospital that provides intensive care for premature or ill newborn babies.

**Ophthalmologist** Medical doctor who specializes in the diagnosis of eye conditions and eye abnormalities. This doctor may perform surgery or prescribe other types of treatment including glasses and contact lenses.

**Optician** Professional who makes and adjusts optical aids from refraction prescriptions supplied by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

**Optometrist** A licensed specialist trained to test the eyes and to detect and treat eye problems and some eye diseases by prescribing and adapting corrective lenses and other optical aids.

**Orientation** Knowing where you are, where you are going and how you are going to get where you want to be by interpreting available information in your environment.

**Orientation and Mobility Specialist** A person trained to teach those who are visually impaired to safely move around their environment. See also **Mobility** and **Orientation**.

**Twin-vision books** Books with both braille and print (also known as "braille-print" books)