



RI Early Intervention Vision Services Guidance for Providers

Services for children birth to three with visual impairments are available through a combination of independent Vision Specialists and RIVESP (Rhode Island Vision Service and Education Program) at the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RI College. Vision Specialists consist of Teachers of Children with Vision Impairments and Orientation and Mobility Specialists. Both disciplines are equally skilled to support families in the development of their children with vision impairments.

Early Intervention providers working with children who need a consultation or services with a VISION SPECIALIST should follow these steps:

- 1) Fax or email the following to Kathy Greenwell at the Sherlock Center (Tel: 4561943, Fax: 456-1979) kgreenwell@ric.edu
 - EI Vision Assessment Questionnaire**
 - Vision Services Referral Form**
 - 2 Signed Consent Forms:** **1.)** EI program consent to “release/obtain information from” RIVESP, and **2.)** RIVESP consent allowing RIVESP to “release and obtain information from” the child’s ophthalmologist. Parent must sign both.
- 2) The Vision Specialist will contact the service coordinator.
- 3) The Service Coordinator will conduct an IFSP Update Meeting with the family to add at least a 1 x Vision Specialist visit to the IFSP. The EI provider **MUST** make the Vision Specialist aware of the date Vision Services were added to the IFSP because the “30 day clock” is ticking. A copy of the complete IFSP must accompany the referral.
- 4) The Service Coordinator and Vision Specialist should schedule a joint visit with the family to collaboratively determine desired outcomes, strategies and services.
- 5) Service Coordinator updates Vision Services on the IFSP.

If an appointment with Dr. Waldorf (for functional vision assessment) is needed, the Service Coordinator can follow A) or B). Option A offers more time, better follow-up and immediate summary report for parents.

- A) Send Functional Vision Evaluation Referral Form to Rick Andrade at IN-SIGHT (Tel: 941-3322, Fax: 941-3356) who will schedule an appointment, and obtain information from the child’s ophthalmologist if necessary (INSIGHT release will be needed). Appointments at IN-SIGHT will be the third and fourth Thursday of the month at 9am, 10am, and 11am. Families should speak with Rick Andrade to see if Dr. Waldorf accepts their insurance and what their copay will be. No update to IFSP is needed because this is an outside service. Dr. Waldorf will see any child whose caregiver has a concern about their vision.

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- B) Families are welcome to make their own appointments directly with Dr. Waldorf, accessing their private insurance. Families should speak with Dr. Waldorf's office to see if he accepts their insurance and what their copay will be. No update to IFSP is needed because this is an outside service. Office is at 132 Old River Rd, Lincoln, RI. Tel: 721-5599.

Any questions about Vision Services should be directed to Pat Maris at pmaris@ric.edu.