



## **Habilitation Strategies for Visually Impaired Pupils in Emergency Childcare Settings**

**If you have a child with a Visual Impairment attending your emergency childcare setting it is important that they have the opportunity to familiarise themselves to the environment and routines.**

**Below are some strategies to help support this placement.**

- Support and encourage the pupil to explore and become familiar with the layout of the setting. Investigate the position of different equipment, play areas and furniture.
- Support the pupil to develop routes to promote independent travel – routes to outdoor play area, to the toilets, to the cloakrooms, to the allocated classroom.
- When developing routes identify landmarks to help with orientation.
- When travelling routes with a pupil be consistent use the same landmarks, same verbal prompts, use of language to minimise confusion and support route familiarisation.
- Maintain an uncluttered environment in the classroom and corridors. Any changes to the environment need to be introduced to the pupil.
- Extra care needs to be taken when negotiating steps, changes in floor surfaces and gradients.
- Give verbal prompts when approaching steps and gradients. Never count the steps, give verbal warning steps up/ steps down.
- Be aware that some pupils with a visual impairment may take a little longer to adapt to changes in illumination levels.
- A baseball type hat with a peak will help reduce levels of glare on bright sunny days.
- Always use the pupils name to get their attention.
- Some pupils may require a running commentary about the surroundings and what is happening around them.

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