



Perkins School for the Blind

Perkins Training Center

PROJECT VIISA – PRESCHOOL COURSE

Serving Preschoolers with Vision Impairments in Center Based Settings

October 27-29, 2011

January 27-28, 2012

This course is designed for both vision professionals (Teachers/Consultants for Students with Visual Impairments, Orientation & Mobility Instructors) and teachers & professionals who are working directly with at least one preschooler with blindness/visual impairment. Parents of infants, toddlers or preschoolers with blindness/visual impairment and paraprofessionals working with a child with visual impairment are also welcome to apply. We strongly encourage teams of a vision professionals, teachers, paraprofessionals and/or parents to register to take the course together.

Lead Trainers: Linda Collins, M.Ed. Perkins School for the Blind
Lisa Jacobs, M.Ed. Perkins School for the Blind

Dates: October 27-29, 2011, 8:30am – 5:00pm Daily
January 27-28, 2012, 8:30am – 5:00pm Daily
SNOW DATE – February 4-5, 2012

Location: Perkins School for the Blind
175 North Beacon Street, Watertown, MA 02472

PDP/CE Hours: 35 Professional Development Points or Continuing Education Hours
Pending 35 ACVREPs

Enrollment is limited! Participants will be chosen based on date the registration and payment is received with preference given to those professionals who are working directly with preschoolers with visual impairment and teams who take the course together.

Course content: The purpose of this course is for participants to gain and develop skills in understanding the unique needs of preschoolers who are blind or visually impaired in the center based setting. The focus will be on working with these children in the preschool setting as well as in collaboration with the family and other members of the service delivery team. Transitioning from the preschool to the elementary school setting will also be addressed. The students will gain knowledge and skills in observation, assessment, the IEP process, intervention techniques, use of appropriate methods, curricula and materials in teaching skills in all developmental domains, developing the use of all senses, meeting the child needs in the group setting, socialization, school readiness, early literacy and orientation and mobility. The course is not intended to replace the need for certified teachers of the visually impaired, but rather to enhance the working relationship of all professionals involved with these children. The training will require a significant commitment of time.

This course covers the unique needs of preschoolers who are visually impaired.

Topics include:

- Vision Impairment and effects on learning and development
- Clinical Visual Assessment
- Medical aspects/implications of eye disorders, including CVI
- Vision Development, Assessment and Intervention
- Working with Preschoolers with Vision Impairment in the Center Based Setting
- Sensory Processing: the Brain
- Compensatory Skills: hearing, touch, taste and smell
- Interacting with People: Language Social Skills and Play
- Orientation and mobility
- Learning Media
- Cognition and Concept Development
- Activities of Daily Living
- Early Literacy Experiences
- Preschoolers with Additional Disabilities
- Assessment Tools and Strategies. Person Centered Planning and Activity Based IEP's
- Working with Families
- Strategies for Successful Transitions

\$200.00 Registration Fee (payment due with registration by **Thursday, October 13, 2011**)

Textbooks/Manual Materials:

\$140.00 ***VIISA Curriculum – Resources for the Family Centered Interventions for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers who are Visually Impaired*** from Hope, Inc.
The textbook can be purchased at the following link:
<http://www.hopepubl.com/proddetail.php?prod=105>

\$50.00 **Home Study Manual** – Will be available for purchase during the 1st training day, October 27, 2011.

*Please note text/manual materials can be shared among colleagues.

Please Send Participant Registration and \$200.00 Fee to:

Perkins Training Center
Perkins School for the Blind
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472

REGISTRATION & FEE IS DUE Thursday, October 13, 2011

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

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I. Name: _____

Address: _____

Street:

City:

State:

Zip: _____

Primary Phone: (h)(w)(c) _____

Secondary: (h)(w)(c) _____

Email: _____

Educational Background/Degrees: _____

Title & Job Description: _____

Agency (name & address): _____

II. Please list five training techniques that help you best learn: (e.g. Lectures, videos, small group discussion, case studies, games, written work, handouts, demonstration, etc.)

III. Please indicate any accommodations required:

Braille Large Print Electronic Interpreter Special Diet: _____

Please send completed Registration & **\$200.00** Fee made payable to Perkins School for the Blind to:

Perkins Training Center
Perkins School for the Blind
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Registration must be received by Thursday, October 13, 2011.

For course information contact Linda Collins at: Linda.Collins@Perkins.org or 508-783-9538

For logistics information contact: perkinstrainingcenter@perkins.org

Payment must be received and confirmed in order to secure your participation.

*Please Note: Confirmed participant refunds will not be given without a 48 hr notice of cancellation**