



Assisting the Student with Albinism in the Mainstream Classroom

by

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Optical Aids



The student, teacher of visually impaired and classroom teacher should work together to identify strategies to assist the student with albinism's visual needs. An optometrist or ophthalmologist experienced in low vision can prescribe specific aids for the individual student. Here are some devices the student may use to access information:

Glasses and contacts - lenses to improve visual acuity, correct astigmatism, or other correctable vision issues. High magnification reading glasses may be used for significant close-up tasks.

Hand magnifiers - a variety of magnifiers are available that help to enlarge print. Vision teachers can assist in demonstrating and developing skills to use these devices. Various models include: hand-held, stand, lighted.

Monoculars and Bioptics - telescopic devices, used with only one eye, that can assist with distance viewing. Monoculars are hand-held, and bioptics are mounted on a standard eyeglass lens.

Video Magnifiers - Also known as CCTVs (Closed Circuit Televisions), these devices will magnify text onto a screen for individual viewing. There are desk top models with large screens that can be used in a classroom. Smaller, portable CCTVs are very popular, are less obtrusive and offer more options for use at home and in the community. Some models also have camera features that will allow the student

to view distance objects (blackboards, projector screens, teacher demonstrations, etc.).



Assistive Technology

Computers can be of great use for students with low vision both in the classroom and for future employment. Many students are able to read information on a computer screen by getting up closer or by using standard text enlargement or built-in accessibility options. There are also screen enlargement programs (ZoomText, MAGic), some that include screen reading (speech) options, that offer wider options for magnification and screen navigation.

Students with albinism should begin learning how to use a computer keyboard with typing-readiness computer games as early as Kindergarten and formal touch-typing as early as third grade. Older students can use a laptop to take notes in class and to read from the screen or print out at home.

Audio Books are also helpful for some students who have difficulty reading text or for those who get eyestrain from long periods of reading.

Digital recorders can be a simple, unobtrusive accommodation that allows students to save information quickly and retrieve it easily at a later time.

The student's teacher of visually impaired is trained to be the best source of information in these areas. This teacher should be included in consultation on any difficulties the student may be having in accessing technology in the classroom. And most importantly, give the student the opportunity to take the lead in choosing any device that he or she feels will be the most helpful for themselves. They need to be invested in this process to make it work.

For more resources, visit www.Perkins.org.

Our on-demand webcasts are presented by experts in the field of visual impairment and deafblindness. View our directory at:
www.Perkins.org/webcasts.