

STARTING POINTS FOR SERVICE COORDINATORS FOR CHILDREN WITH VISION LOSS

This list is not meant to be all inclusive. Consider additions appropriate for the particular child and family you are serving. Be sure to obtain parental consent before contacting the ophthalmologist or primary care practitioner and be mindful that some families may choose to share information with you directly.

- Refer the family to Perkins School for the Blind for specialty services related to vision loss. Contact:
Ruth Silverstein at 617-972-7332;
email: ruth.silverstein@perkins.org
or Ann Ross at 617-972-7333; email: ann.ross@perkins.org
Fax: 617-972-7231

Families are welcome to contact Perkins staff directly.

- Refer family to Perkins School for the Blind website:
www.perkins.org
- Contact primary care provider about the need to refer the child to an ophthalmologist if that has not been done
- Check to see if eye doctor has referred child to Mass Commission for the Blind
- Inform family about potential benefits, based on family's financial situation
 - MassHealth/CommonHealth
 - Kaleigh Mulligan
 - Catastrophic Illness
 - SSI
 - WIC
 - Food Stamps
- Refer family to www.e-advisor.us for information about vision loss and its impact. The aim of this website is to enhance communication among parents, teachers, and doctors.
- Check to see if family is interested in:
 - opportunity to talk with other parents of children with vision loss
 - Refer to Massachusetts Association of Parents with Vision Loss (MAPVI) at www.viguide.com/mapvi

- Refer to National Association of Parents with Vision Impairment (NAPVI) at www.napvi.org
- Refer to Federation for Children with Special Needs at www.fcsn.org
- Refer to Family Ties: 1-800-905-TIES (8347) or www.massfamilyties.org
- Refer to Family Voices: (888) 835-5669 or www.familyvoices.org

- If child has vision + hearing loss, consider referrals to:
 - DB link at www.dblink.org
 - National Family Association of DeafBlind at www.nfadb.org

- developing advocacy and leadership skills
 - Refer to EI Parent Leadership Project at 877-353-4757; www.eiplp.org
 - Refer to MA Families Organizing for Change www.mfofc.org or 800 406-3632

- other sources of information about vision loss: internet, books, videos

- referral to RCP or DPH Care Coordination if child has on-going significant medical issues

- Consider early referral to LEA