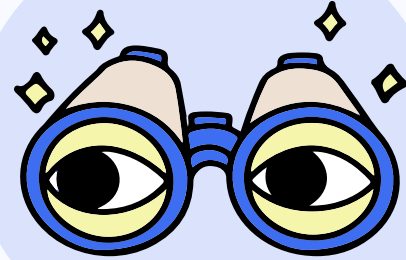


# Low Vision in Pediatrics

Low vision refers to a significant visual impairment that cannot be corrected fully with glasses, contact lenses, medication, or surgery.

In pediatric populations, low vision can profoundly impact a child's development, academic performance, and social interactions. Children with low vision may struggle with tasks such as reading, writing, and participating in physical activities, leading to delays in cognitive and motor skills. It can also affect the emotional well-being of the child, causing frustration, isolation, and low self-esteem.

Early intervention and the use of adaptive technologies, is crucial in helping children with low vision reach their full potential and lead active, independent lives.



Rainey, L., Elsmann, E. B. M., van Nispen, R. M. A., van Leeuwen, L. M., & van Rens, G. H. M. B. (2016). Comprehending the impact of low vision on the lives of children and adolescents: a qualitative approach. *Quality of Life Research*, 25, 2633-2643.

# The Role of Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy plays a crucial role in supporting children with low vision by helping them adapt to their environment and develop the skills needed for daily activities. The primary goal of occupational therapy for pediatric low vision is to enhance a child's independence, safety, and participation in everyday tasks, both at home and in school. Therapists work with children to improve functional skills such as self-care, school-related tasks (e.g., reading, writing), mobility, and social interactions.

## Interventions

Environmental Modifications  
Assistive Technology  
Motor Skills Development  
Social & Emotional Support



Kaldenberg, J. (2024). Visual Perceptual Dysfunction and Low-Vision Rehabilitation. In Foundations of pediatric practice

# Tips and Tricks for Parents

<b><u>Remove Clutter</u></b>	Clutter presents as a safety concern. A child with low vision may trip on cluttered wires or other obstacles in their way. Use contrast colors on door frames, and stairs.
<b><u>Lighting adjustments</u></b>	Adjust lighting in the home to improve visibility and help your child maneuver in the home. If more light is needed by the child, use natural lighting.
<b><u>Enlarged Print</u></b>	Text can be enlarged for better readability. This can be done through larger fonts, or the use of electronic devices with adjustable text sizes. If it is not possible to enlarge, move child closer to object (such as the board at school).
<b><u>Assistive Technology:</u></b>	Devices such as electronic magnifiers or voice recognition tools can be used to support reading and writing.

