

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PERSONNEL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PROGRAMS

A course in early intervention for children with vision impairment and their families will be offered by the Missouri School for the Blind through Project VIISA (Vision Impaired In-Service in America), which was developed by the SKI*HI Institute at Utah State University. Applications are now being accepted for Course II, which will be conducted November 12-14, 2014 and March 18-20, 2015. **Registration deadline is October 17, 2014.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

VIISA Course II: Serving Preschoolers (3-5) with Vision Impairment in Center-based Settings covers topics related to the unique needs of preschoolers who are vision impaired, including: interaction with others (language, social skills, play); literacy issues; determining reading medium; daily living skills; family involvement; cognition and concept development; orientation and mobility (O&M); preschoolers with additional impairments; assessment and the IEP; and choosing school placement and transition.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE II

Fifteen participants will be chosen to take the course. Course participants must hold a bachelor's degree. Priority will be given to early interventionists/early childhood special education personnel and vision teachers presently working with a preschooler who is visually impaired in an early intervention or preschool program.

HOW, WHERE, AND WHEN WILL THE COURSES BE TAUGHT?

The course consists of:

- An initial 18 hours of onsite classroom teaching over a Wednesday (1:00 PM-5:00 PM), Thursday (8:00 AM-4:30 PM) and Friday (8:00 AM-4:30 PM) on November 12-14, 2014, in Chesterfield, MO.
- **Five home study packages with readings and written assignments are required and are to be mailed to the instructor. Some of these assignments will involve observations and hands-on mini-practicum experiences with preschoolers who are vision impaired.**
- A final 18-hour onsite class with the instructor over a Wednesday (1:00 PM-5:00) Thursday (8:00 AM-4:30 PM) and Friday (8:00 AM-4:30 PM) in Chesterfield, MO, on March 18-20, 2015. Student grading will be based on a portfolio assessment and attendance at the two onsite classes. There will be no final exam. The onsite sessions will include the use of lecture, discussion, video, small group application in case studies, observation and practical experiences.

WHO WILL TEACH THE COURSE?

Bess Dennison, lead instructor, has worked with the VIISA and INSITE Outreach Projects at the SKI-HI Institute over the past 25+ years. She currently works part-time at SKI-HI and carries a part-time caseload of children for Utah School for the Blind Outreach Program. Ann Straw, co-instructor, holds an M.Ed. from Washington University in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Ms. Straw is currently a Parent Advisor for the MoSPIN Program.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

Registration is free. Those who complete all onsite classes and assignments may wish to receive two hours of college credit offered through Lindenwood University; tuition for the course is \$120.00. The primary text will be the two-volume *Resources for Family Centered Intervention for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers Who Are Visually Impaired*, developed through the SKI*HI Institute. These texts, in addition to the home study package material with additional readings, will be provided at no cost.

If you are interested in applying for Project VIISA Course II, contact:

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