

PROJECT VIISA
(Vision Impaired In-Service in America)

A Model In-Service Training Program for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Professionals Serving Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers Who are Blind or Visually Impaired who may have additional disabilities.

**Course II: Serving Preschoolers with Vision Impairments
in Center-Based Settings**

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's needs in the group setting, socialization, school readiness, early literacy and orientation and mobility.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE II

Fifteen participants will be selected to take the course.
Course participants must hold a bachelor's degree.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The course consists of:

- Three days of training over November 7-9, 2018, Chesterfield MO
- Five home study packages with readings and written assignments are required and are to be emailed to the instructors. Some of these assignments will involve observations and hands-on mini-practicum experiences with infants and/or toddlers who are vision impaired.
- Final three days of training March 20-22, 2019 Chesterfield, MO

The onsite sessions will include the use of lecture, discussion, video, small group application of case studies, observation, and practical experiences.

If you are interested in applying for Project VIISA Course II, please submit an application to:

Jane Herder

Missouri School for the Blind 3815 Magnolia Avenue St. Louis MO, 63110

314-633-1553

314-773-3762 fax

Or best method is to email me at jane.herder@msb.dese.mo.gov

Participants will receive the Project VIISA *Home Study Assignment Manual* on flash drive and the curriculum manuals at the first onsite class

Additional details:

The First Onsite Classes

The classes will take place in Chesterfield, MO. The class will consist of lecture and discussions; observation and application with case studies on video; work in small groups; exposure to resources (i.e., materials, curricula, agencies, and personnel); reflection and writing; and sharing of ideas. The topics for the first onsite class are as follows:

Course Overview, Requirements, How to Proceed with the Home Studies and the Practicum, Getting to Know Each Other

Introduction to Working with Preschoolers with Vision Impairment in Center-Based Settings

Interacting with People (Language, Social Skills, and Play with Peers)

Early Literacy Experiences

Sensory Learning Profile (or Learning Media Assessment)

Activities of Daily Living

Keeping the Family Involved

in the months following the first onsite session, participants should complete 5 home assignments.

The Final Onsite Classes

Near the end of the course, a final onsite class with the instructors will take place. It will be very much like the first one, but covering new content and you will evaluate the course. The topics for the second onsite class are as follows:

Questions About and Discussion of Material Covered Thus Far
Cognition, Play, and Concept Development
Motor and Early Orientation and Mobility
Preschoolers with Additional Impairments
Assessment and the IEP
Choosing the Appropriate Elementary School, Placement, and Transition
Course Evaluation

Class Schedule

First Onsite Class	<i>November 7-9, 2018 in Chesterfield, MO</i>
Home Study Assignments	<i>November 2, January 4, February 1, February 22, March 22, 2019</i>
Final Onsite Class	<i>March 20-22, 2019 in Chesterfield, MO</i>

Completing Home Study Assignments for the Portfolio

There are 9 home study units in this manual. It is recommended that you look over all of the units and read as much as you can. You are required to complete one assignment from 5 out of the 9 units. You may complete them in any order you wish. Due dates for the five assignments are:

First: 11.2.18
Second: 1.4.19
Third: 02.01.19
Fourth: 2.22.19
Fifth: 3.22.19

Hoping you can join us for this exceptional training for preschoolers who are visually impaired who may have additional disabilities.