

**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 a 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. Transition from the preschool to the elementary school setting will also be addressed. Participants 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 course consists of:

- Six total days of training to be held at the Missouri School for the Blind (3815 Magnolia, Saint Louis, MO 63110). First three days of training November 2-4, 2022 (half day Nov 2, full days Nov 3-4). Final three days of training April 19-21, 2023 (half day Apr 19, full days Apr 20-21).
- Five home study packages with readings and written assignments are encouraged. These assignments will involve observations, hands-on mini-practicum experiences with infants and/or toddlers with vision loss, and reactions to assigned readings.
- Participants may apply for 2 college credit hours after successful completion of the VIISA Course II Training Program. Credit hours are offered through Lindenwood University at a reduced rate of \$150.

**If you would like to participate in the Project VIISA Course II, please register by October 11, 2022 by filling out the [VIISA 2 Registration Form](#).**

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

Training and materials are provided **free of charge** to participants. Participants are expected to cover any travel expenses associated with attendance.

Participants will receive the Project VIISA *Home Study Assignment Manual* online, necessary course materials, and the curriculum manuals at the first class.

### **First Classes – November 2-4, 2022**

The class will consist of lecture and discussions; observation and application with case studies on video; make and takes, 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 class are as follows:

- Course Overview
- Introduction to Vision Impairment, Impact on Learning and Development
- Working with Families
- Ocular Disorders and Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)
- Hearing, Auditory Skills, and Listening
- Visual Development and Functional Vision Assessment
- Use of Touch
- Attachment and Early Communication
- Strategies, Materials, and Modifications

### **Second Classes – April 19-21, 2023**

These classes will be similar to the first, but with new topics. The topics for the second onsite class are as follows:

- Cognition, Play, and Concept Development
- Motor and Early Orientation and Mobility
- Child Care Routines
- Active Learning Environments
- Multiple Disabilities, including Deafblindness
- Early Literacy
- The Senses/Sensory Processing Issues
- Assessment of Infants and Toddlers
- Goals and Interventions
- Transition from EI to Preschool

## **Home Study Assignments – varied dates**

There are nine home study units in the VIISA manual. We recommend that you look over all of the units and read as much as you can. We strongly encourage you to complete one assignment from five out of the nine units. You may complete them in any order you wish. Due dates for the five assignments are listed below.

## **Class Schedule**

First Class *November 2-4, 2022*

Optional Home Study Assignments due dates:

*December 2, 2022*

*January 6, 2023*

*January 27, 2023*

*February 17, 2023*

*March 17, 2023*

Final Class *April 19-21, 2023*

**Additional Questions?** Contact Jane Herder at [jane.herder@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:jane.herder@msb.dese.mo.gov)

*We hope you will join us!*

**Missouri School for the Blind  
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