
EVS Transition Newsletter Fall 2017



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Educational Vision Services Transition Planning for the 2017-18 school year. We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer and a fruitful September. We look forward to another exciting and productive school year for your child.

As a member of your child's transition team I'd like to share information about the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) and activities that you may use with your child at home. The Expanded Core Curriculum is the body of unique knowledge and skills that are needed by students with visual impairments in addition to the common core subjects such as math, English Language Arts, science, social studies, health, etc. This year, each month a different area of the ECC will be focused upon. October will focus upon compensatory or functional skills.

Transition planning for students who are blind and/or visually impaired is an evolving and continual process of identifying needs, developing goals, and making connections, if needed, to services and service providers within the school system. Both you and your son or daughter need to be part of this transition planning.

We are all looking forward to working with you and your child as the new school year begins. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I can be reached via telephone or the e-mail address listed below.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Hobbes, Transition Coordinator

Educational Vision Services

(917) 256-4234

jhobbes@schools.nyc.gov



Upcoming Events

Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 9th – 30th Check with your child's school for exact dates.

3rd Annual NYC Braille Challenge

Sunday, February 11th

Snow date: Sunday, March 4th

ANNUAL EYE EXAMS



When you go to the eye doctor bring the E12S form (Link on page 4) and have the doctor fill it out completely. Request a visual field exam and copies of all reports before you leave.

It's important to have an annual eye exam completed even if your child has no light perception.

The eye exam checks the health of your child's eyes and provides the TVI with updated information about your child's eye condition.

The Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC)

October Focus: Compensatory or Functional Academic Skills



What is the Expanded Core Curriculum?

The Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) is the body of knowledge and skills that are needed by students with visual impairments due to their unique disability-specific needs. Students with visual impairments need the expanded core curriculum in addition to the core academic curriculum of general education.

What are the 9 areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum?

1. compensatory or functional academic skills, including communication modes
2. orientation and mobility
3. social interaction skills
4. independent living skills
5. recreation and leisure skills
6. career education
7. use of assistive technology
8. sensory efficiency skills
9. self-determination

What are compensatory or functional skills?

Compensatory or functional academic skills, including communication modes Compensatory skills are those needed by blind and visually impaired students in order to access all areas of core curriculum. **Functional skills** refers to the skills that students with multiple disabilities learn that provide them with the opportunity to work, play, socialize, and take care of his/her personal needs to the highest level possible. Children may use braille, large print, print with the use of optical devices, regular print, tactile symbols, a calendar system, sign language, and/or recorded materials to communicate.

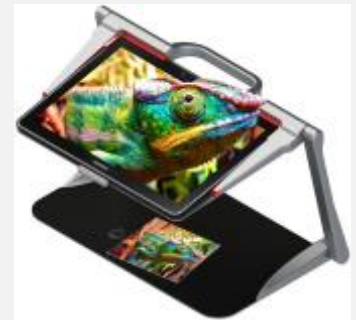
What can I do at home?

Talk to your child about any specialized equipment he or she uses during the day.

Perkins Braillewriter



Visio Book



Tablet



.....more on next page.....

What else can I do?

- ✓ Check out - *What parents need to know about the ECC*

English – <http://www.familyconnect.org/info/education/expanded-core-curriculum/23>

Spanish - <http://www.familyconnect.org/info/educacion/el-curriculo-central-ampliado/23>

- ✓ Check out – The Expanded Core Curriculum - Finding the Time

<http://www.tsbvi.edu/national-agenda/1205-the-expanded-core-curriculum-finding-the-time>

- ✓ Check out - The Expanded Core Curriculum Tip Sheet

http://www.nercve.umb.edu/nhpd/index.php?page=tip2_ECC

- ✓ Check out – The ECC from a student's point of view – compensatory skills

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/transition/ecc/compensatory-skills>

- ✓ Check out – Tactual readiness – Pre Braille Skills

<http://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/tactual-readiness.html>

- ✓ Receive training for the specialized equipment that your child uses by requesting **Parent Counseling and Training** as a Related Service on your child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

- ✓ Sign up for **FREE** online Braille instruction classes

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/scout/online-braille-courses>

- ✓ Join a Blind/Visually Impaired parent support group such as:

National Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI)

<http://napvi.org/>

Parents of Blind Children Facebook page - POBC Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/PA-Parents-of-Blind-Children-192762230761399/>

Lighthouse Guild Tele-Support Groups for Parents

<http://www.lighthouseguild.org/programs-services/education/support-for-parents-of-children-with-visual-impairments/tele-support-groups-parents/>

American Federation of the Blind

<https://www.afb.org/forum/parenting/support-group-for-parentsfamilies-and-friends-of-visually-impaired-children>

More links:

- ✓ E12S Form – Eye Report

<http://edvisionservices.org/Formsupdated/PDFForms/EyeReport.pdf>

- ✓ Families as Partners in the Educational Team: Parenting and Leadership

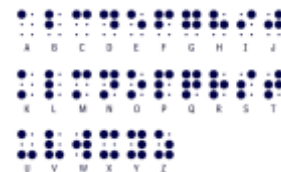
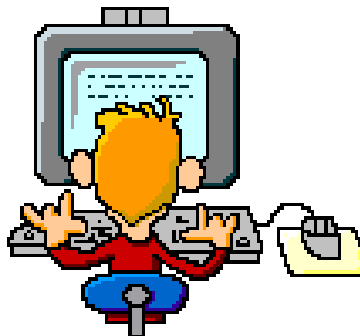
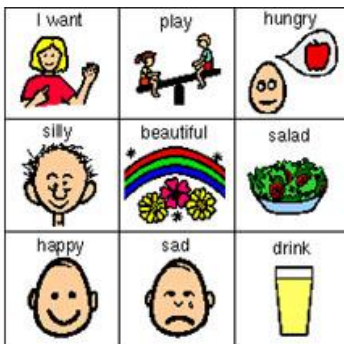
<http://www.perkinselearning.org/videos/webcast/families-partners-educational-team-parenting-leadership>

- ✓ Family Connect

English - <https://www.familyconnect.org/parentsitetime.aspx>

- ✓ Family Connect

Spanish - <http://www.familyconnect.org/info/despues-del-diagnostico/despues-del-diagnostico/trabajar-con-los-profesionales-medicos/herramienta-descargable-4697/1235>



If your child would like to participate in the NYC Braille Challenge or the Braille Experience, please ask your child's TVI for more information regarding sign-up and registration.