

Supporting Low Vision in the Classroom

Children in the classroom need to see their teacher, classmates, the blackboard, TV, computer, overheads and PowerPoints. They need to take notes, complete assignments, read and take tests. For **low vision** children, many of these tasks are more difficult.



10 ways to support children with low vision in school

1. Allow the student to select preferred seating in the front of the classroom, preferably away from glare sources such as windows.
2. Permit **low vision** students to wear sunglasses or a hat with visor if they are helpful inside.
3. Be provided with handouts rather than being required to copy from the board. Handouts should be in large, bold print. Their **low vision specialist** can suggest what size print will be appropriate.
4. Provide extra time to complete tests and assignments if extended reading and writing are required.
5. Ensure computers are equipped with screen enlarging software.
6. Be provided with a tilted desk so they won't have to bend over so far to write and read causing fatigue and discomfort.
7. Provide and allow to use large print and broad writing materials (felt-tip pens) to increase visibility
8. Use a monocular or **bioptic telescope** to improve seeing the teacher, blackboard, and classmates at a distance. **Telescopes**, especially those mounted onto eyeglasses (**bioptics**), can enable individuals to very conveniently see almost normally and enable them to stay more connected to the academic and social activities in school.
9. Consider having a class session so schoolmates can learn what visual disorders are all about.
10. Finally, the teacher should inquire to be certain the student can see what is being presented. Don't assume that if they don't say anything, they are able to see it.

Read about IEP and IDEA information for parents of visually impaired children by Dr. Anne Corn called [Low Vision Services: Working with Your Child's School](#) Read this very helpful and in-depth [article](#) for parents and teachers of visually impaired school children by Dr. Virginia Bishop from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The National Organization of Albinism and Hypopigmentation ([NOAH](#)) has very helpful publications for [parents](#) and [educators](#) regarding vision and other issues affecting children with albinism.