



Our W👁️orld Can Be Vibrant Too!

iC2 PREPHOUSE Our 50 STORIES



Children with Low Vision Present Special Challenges

A newborn's interest in the world and in people usually starts with his / her initial visual experiences. A blind baby or one with low vision cannot see the visible expressions of joy on his / her parents' faces, and therefore does not look or smile back. He / she may listen so intently when talked to that his / her expression may become passive. In turn, these responses can easily be misinterpreted as lack of interest and may lead to a reduction in the lively contact that a developing child needs. In addition, many concepts developed in early childhood are learned incidentally through vision. It is therefore important for children with low vision to directly experience as much of their world as possible, and to receive the right guidance in making connections between objects and processes.

Early intervention of visual impairment is of paramount importance. Of course, it is every parent's and eye doctor's wish that the underlying cause of visual impairment be rectified. Sometimes, the visual impairment may be largely reversible and treatable. An example would be a child with childhood cataracts. If the cataracts are significant and detected early, cataract

surgery with subsequent visual rehabilitation can be very successful. Unfortunately, a sizeable proportion of children who present with low vision may not have treatable or reversible causes. However with early visual intervention and if prescribed the appropriate assistive technology, these children can lead near normal lives.

I recently saw a 4 month old baby girl who was born with bilateral centrally opacified corneas (i.e. the front surfaces of the eyes). It was a heart-breaking situation – the parents having flown to Singapore from the region, with the financial and emotional support of friends and relatives, hoping for a cure for their precious child. Such cornea conditions generally have poor long term prognosis and guarded visual outcomes, but it was at least gratifying for me to be able to offer iC2 PrepHouse's programmes to this unfortunate child's parents. I am glad that iC2 offers invaluable resources which fill a void in our local eye care services.

Dr Zena Lim

Medical Director

Focal Eye Centre / The Children's Eye & ENT Centre

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