**Eye Condition Snippet**

**Condition Name:** Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)

**Description:** Retinopathy of prematurity is characterized by the abnormal growth of blood vessels in the retina of some premature infants. The use of oxygen administered to premature babies in incubators was suspected as a possible cause of the abnormal growth of the blood vessels. Other factors include low birth weight, premature birth 32 weeks or younger and the baby being severely ill at birth.

**Effects on Vision:** The retina is affected because blood vessels do not reach the edges so blood flow is disrupted. If there is normal growth of the blood vessels, the area is well supplied with nutrients and oxygen. The optic nerve and macula are affected as well as the mid and far periphery. Retinopathy of prematurity can range from a mild reduction in visual acuity to complete retinal detachment and blindness.

**Educational implications:** Depending on the severity of the visual impairment which may vary from low vision to blindness the student will require either large print or braille. If the student is not a braille user, they will likely need low vision aids such as magnifiers or a monocular. It is important to be aware of proper illumination for the student while trying to avoid glare. Also, reducing visual clutter is very imperative on maps and diagrams. Instruction and training from an Orientation and Mobility instructor is essential.