A Student With A Visual Impairment
In My Classroom

Tips For Classroom Teachers

1. Speak to the class upon entering and leaving the room or site.

2. Call the student with a vision impairment by name if you want his/her attention.

3. Seat the student away from glaring lights preferably with their back to the window.

4. Use descriptive words such as straight, forward, left, etc. in relation to the student's body orientation. Be specific in directions and avoid the use of vague terms with unusable information, such as "over there", "here", "this", etc.

5. Describe, in detail any pertinent visual information.
6. Describe and tactually familiarize the student to the classroom, laboratory, equipment, supplies, materials, etc.

7. Give verbal notice of room changes, special meetings, or assignments.

8. Offer to read written information for a person with a visual impairment, when appropriate.

9. Arrange for the appropriate text books in the student's preferred reading medium.

10. Identify yourself by name, don't assume that the student who is visually impaired will recognize you by your voice even though you have met before.

11. If you are asked to guide a student with a visual impairment, identify yourself, offer your services and, if accepted, offer your arm to the student's hand. Tell them if they have to step up or step down, let them know if the door is to their left or right, and warn them of possible hazards.
12. Orally, let the student know if you need to move or leave or need to end a conversation.

13. If a student with a visual impairment is in class, routinely check the instructional environment to be sure it is adequate and ready for use.