

May 2018

Dear Community Service Provider,

Re: Early Intervention Vision Services (birth to school entry)

Vision Loss Rehabilitation- BC, is now providing **Early Intervention (EI) Vision Services** to support children in their home community who have partial sight or are blind. Services will be provided to children, families and local resources and program teams through-out British Columbia. This service replaces the community outreach component previously offered thru Sunny Hill Health- Visual Impairment Program.

Operated by the CNIB in partnership with Blind Beginnings, Vision Loss Rehabilitation- BC, provides the following programs and activities for children, families and community service providers:

- Work directly with families to help understand their child's vision loss, functional impact(s) and potential developmental implications. Together, and with the community team, develop strategies and recommendations to support development and learning.
- Connect families with local and provincial services, resources and programs.
- Facilitate opportunities for counselling, peer support, and families connecting with other families who have a child who is blind or partially sighted.
- Consult and provide information (with a focus on function) regarding; sensory skills, communication, play skills, socialization, movement, literacy and transition into daycare, pre-school and school settings. This may also include referral for preschool Orientation & Mobility instruction, referral to camp programs and providing family education workshops.

Referral to the program can be made directly by families and/or community partners, with an Ophthalmology or Optometry report required to complete and determine eligibility for registration.

Parents and community team, please call or email the Intake Coordinator, Shawn Marsolais at 1-866-736-8620, shawn@blindbeginnings.ca.

Medical referrals can be made by phone or fax to the CNIB Registrar at 604-431-2121 (phone) or 604-431-2099, (fax).

For further inquires please contact one of our Early Intervention Vision Specialists:

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Best regards,

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Shawn Marsolais
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