



State of Connecticut
Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS)
Bureau of Education
and Services for the Blind (BESB)
**Services for Infants, Toddlers,
Preschool Children and Their Families**

Who We Are:

The ADS-BESB Children's Services Program provides specialized services, training, and adaptive materials for children who are legally blind, visually impaired, or deafblind. Our aim is to promote successful inclusion in educational, social, and recreational settings.

Who May Be Eligible For Services?

A child who is:

- Visually Impaired: Acuties between 20/70 and 20/200 with correction, in the better eye.
- Legally Blind: Acuties of 20/200 or greater with correction in the better eye, or a visual field loss with 20 degrees or less remaining in the better eye.

or

- Medically determined to have a functional acuity that meets the qualification of legally blind or visually impaired such as a brain based or neurological visual impairment.

The BESB Referral Process:

To make a referral, submit a medical eye report to BESB by either mailing it to our agency or faxing it to 860-706-5809. You can find the eye report on the agency website (<https://portal.ct.gov/AgingandDisability>) by searching for "BESB Eye Report" in the search box.

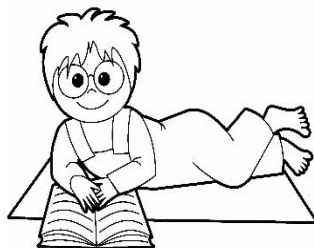
- If the child is eligible, BESB will send the parent or guardian an application for services.
- Upon receipt of the completed, signed application form, the Education Supervisor will assign an Education Consultant who will contact the family.
- The Education Consultant will complete a functional vision assessment to help determine the appropriate level of service.
- Services are typically included on a child's IFSP or IEP.

Where Are Services Provided?

- In the home
- In the daycare
- In the private or public preschool
- In the community

Services We Provide:

- *Direct and/or consultation services to support early development and compensatory skills, including emergent literacy, pre-braille, and expanded core curriculum (ECC) skills*
- *Evaluation of a child's progress and development*
- *Functional vision assessment*
- *Information for parents, caregivers, Birth-3 providers and preschool programs about accommodations and modifications that are important for early childhood development*
- *Training for parents and service providers who support children in the home and school*
- *Appropriate books and materials related to a child's vision impairment*
- *Low vision exams by designated eye doctors*
- *Orientation and Mobility services to assist in teaching children to move about their environment as safely and independently as possible*



Children's Services Staff

The Children's Services Program of ADS-BESB includes:

- Education Consultants who are Certified Teachers of Students who are Visually Impaired.
- Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists.
- A Braille Coordinator for adapted textbook needs.
- A Rehabilitation Teacher for assistive technology needs.

Why Do Infants and Children Need Our Services?

Vision plays an important role in early childhood development. When vision is impaired, children need specialized instruction and support to develop age- appropriate skills.

Each child has unique needs, and our Education Consultants work to provide tools and strategies to help every child achieve their highest potential.

Agency Contact Information:

<https://portal.ct.gov/ADS-BESB>

Telephone: 860-602-4000 or 1 800-842-4510 Fax: 860-602-4030

Catherine Summ

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Children's Services Program

Bureau of Education
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