

**PROJECT VIISA
(Vision Impaired In-Service in America)**

A Model In-Service Training Program for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Professionals Serving Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers Who are Blind or Visually Impaired who may have additional disabilities.

Course I: Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers (0-2) with Vision Impairments and Their Families

This course will cover topics related to the unique needs of infants and toddlers who are visually impaired, including:

- Vision impairment and its effects on learning and development
- Functional vision assessment
- Working with families
- Orientation and Mobility (O&M)
- Transition from home to center-based preschool programs

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The course consists of:

- Three days of training November 6-8, 2019, St. Louis, MO
- Five home study packages with readings and written assignments are required and are to be emailed to the instructors. Some of these assignments will involve observations and hands-on mini-practicum experiences with infants and/or toddlers who are vision impaired.
- Final three days of training April 1-3, 2020 St. Louis, MO

The onsite sessions will include the use of lecture, discussion, video, small group application of case studies, observation, and practical experiences.

If you are interested in applying for Project VIISA Course I, please submit an application to:

Mandy Clayton

Missouri School for the Blind 3815 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis MO, 63110

314-633-1553

314-773-3762 fax

Or best method is to email me at amanda.clayton@msb.dese.mo.gov

Participants will receive the Project VIISA Home Study Assignment Manual on flash drive and the curriculum manuals at the first onsite class

The First Onsite Classes

The classes will take place in Chesterfield, MO. The class will consist of lecture and discussions; observation and application with case studies on video; work in small groups; exposure to resources (i.e., materials, curricula, agencies, and personnel); reflection and writing; and sharing of ideas. The topics for the first onsite class are as follows:

- Course Overview, Requirements, How to Proceed with the Home Studies and the Practicum, Getting to Know Each Other
- Introduction to Working with Preschoolers with Vision Impairment in Center-Based Settings
- Interacting with People (Language, Social Skills, and Play with Peers)
- Early Literacy Experiences
- Sensory Learning Profile (or Learning Media Assessment)
- Activities of Daily Living
- Keeping the Family Involved

In the months following the first onsite session, participants should complete 5 home assignments.

The Final Onsite Classes

Near the end of the course, a final onsite class with the instructors will take place. It will be very much like the first one, but covering new content and you will evaluate the course. The topics for the second onsite class are as follows:

- Questions About and Discussion of Material Covered Thus Far Cognition, Play, and Concept Development
- Motor and Early Orientation and Mobility
- Preschoolers with Additional Impairments
- Assessment and the IEP
- Choosing the Appropriate Elementary School, Placement, and Transition Course Evaluation

Questions About and Discussion of Material Covered Thus Far
Cognition, Play, and Concept Development
Motor and Early Orientation and Mobility
Preschoolers with Additional Impairments
Assessment and the IEP
Choosing the Appropriate Elementary School, Placement, and Transition
Course Evaluation

Completing Home Study Assignments for the Portfolio

There are 9 home study units in this manual. It is recommended that you look over all of the units and read as much as you can. You are required to complete one assignment from 5 out of the 9 units. You may complete them in any order you wish. Due dates for the five assignments are:

First: 12.2.19

Second: 1.6.20

Third: 02.03.20

Fourth: 2.24.20

Fifth: 3.30.20

We hope you can join us for this exceptional training for infants who are visually impaired who may have additional disabilities!