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# VISION THERAPY STATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION CENTER, NPO

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# WHAT DO CHILDREN SEE ? VISION AND ITS GROWTH IN THE EARLY AGE...

- Children are small and mostly lying down, therefore their way of seeing is different from adults....
- Not only the point of view is different, but the visual perception and seeing are diverse, as well.
- Sight is the only sense progressing until the age of 7 - 8.



# WHAT DO CHILDREN SEE ? VISION AND ITS GROWTH IN THE EARLY AGE...

- Newborn distinguishes light and darkness, he perceives movement around him, often he squints and is sensible to a distance of 25 cm.
- After the 7th week of life begins an abrupt progression of sight perception.
- From the age of 2 months, the child is able to fixate on objects surrounding him (in the distance of 30 cm), so far with only one eye (30 cm), this fixation is short (10 seconds), the child can squint, he sees in the shadows of GREY and is impressed by the red colour (monocular fixation reflex).





Object & object with accent



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# WHAT DO CHILDREN SEE ? VISION AND ITS GROWTH IN THE EARLY AGE...

- At 3 months the child is learning to use both of his eyes simultaneously and fixate on an object placed closer and further in the distance (convergence a divergence), the child fixates on well lighted objects, the macula – pigmented area in the eye which enables us to see sharply, develops.
- At 4 months the accomodation reflex appears, thus the capability to focus on close objects, the child fixates on well lighted objects, his depth perception begins.
- From the 6th month, vision progresses until the end of development, extraocular muscles are strengthening, the child remembers what he has seen, functions of vision mature gradually.





Depth perception



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# PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

- To provide information for parents and their child with multiple or visual disabilities – about what the child sees and under what conditions, to help the child learn to use his sight as much as the diagnosis allows.
- To facilitate the environment, primarily the parents, to identify the most possibilities and knowledge to have the capacity to help the child get to know the world through his eyes.
- To realise a functional vision test for a child with multiple disabilities.



# TARGET GROUP AND AIM OF THE PROJECT

- Children and families in the Early Childhood Intervention Center whose child (age 0-7 years) suffers from a visual impairment or spatial perception for any kind of reason (prematureness, difficult delivery, multiple or visual disability).
- Aim: to provide individual therapeutic appointments at our workplace and in the homes of families.





# VISION THERAPIST AND HIS ROLE

Therapist takes measure of vision abilities of the child:

- Examination of visual fixation
- Observation of transferring visual attention between objects
- Observation of ability to follow movement
- Examination of visual acuity
- Observation of the ability to notice contrast
- Reviewing the size of the field of sight
- Observation of the capability of the child to orientate in an area
- Observation of eye-hand coordination



# STIMULATION PROGRAM

After performing a functional vision test, the vision therapist helps the family to create an individual plan to stimulate the sight of their child, in the center and in their home.

The parent is given advice on ways to adjust their home, under what angle, what lighting, during which part of the day is the child best able to sense with sight, how and what tools should



# OPTIONS FOR PARENT AND CHILD (CURRENTLY IN SLOVAKIA)

- Eye doctor in hospital, health care. (Parents are often told that their child is too young and does not participate during the vision test, therefore the sight stimulation begins late, as the doctor has nowhere to send the child to.)
- Children above 3 years of age can attend daily or dormitory pre-school facilities specialised in education of children with visual disabilities – mainly in Bratislava or Levoča.
- Union of the blind and weak-sighted – the parents are given advice on people to contact in Czech Republic, because they do not deal with children from 0 to 3 years old.



# OPTIONS FOR PARENT AND CHILD (CURRENTLY IN CZECH REPUBLIC)

- St. Anne's University Hospital, The Optometry Department in Brno (Czech Republic)
- Doctor (MUDR.) Zobanová – team of vision therapists, Center of vision deficiencies, Motol University Hospital, Prague, (Czech Republic)
- Doctor (PhDr.) Moravcová, Private ambulance of vision therapy, Prague (Czech Republic)
- Mgr. Prymusová Pavlína (vision therapist), Eye center Vidum, Opava (Czech Republic)



# OUR PREPARATION FOR THE VISION THERAPY STATION

- Graduating the seminar of Vision therapy in practice (Kružliaková Jana, Čajáiová Jana)
- Continuation qualification course in the field of Vision therapy in Prague (Kuzmická Barbora – completion in May 2017)
- Purchase of visual stimulation devices that are intensely used in families
- Collaboration with Doctor (MUDr.) Prepiaková, University Children's Hospital Kramáre, Bratislava



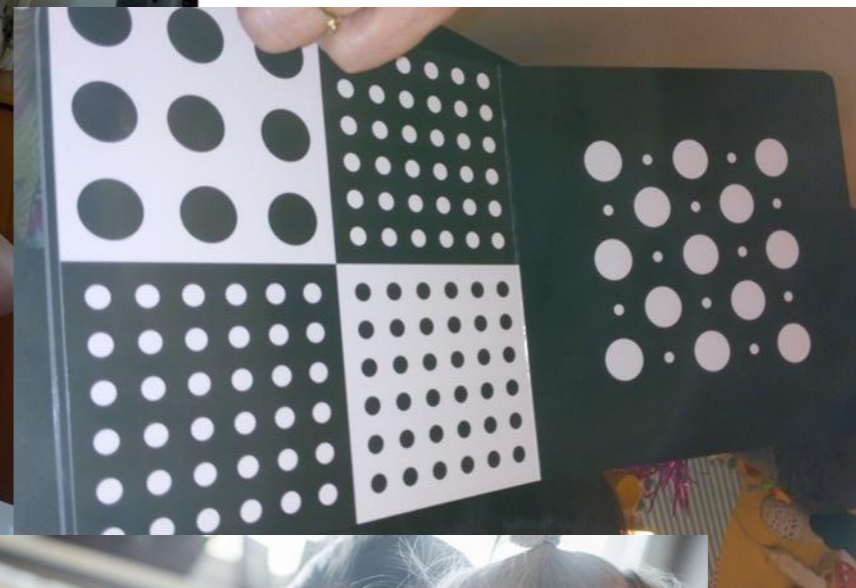
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# HOW WILL THE VISION THERAPY CENTER CONTRIBUTE

- Formation of the first vision therapy station in Slovakia with contemporary equipment and qualified specialists
- Accesible workplace with qualified specialists
- Opportunity to provide vision therapy in the frequency needed by the family and the child
- Time economisation and convenience for the child and the family (disembarrasment of the obligation to travel to Czech Republic for vision therapy)
- Ability to use specialised visual tools and devices during the intervention with families in cooperation with the vision therapy station (so far this has only been possible by exchange of information between the Early Childhood Intervention Center and places in Czech Republic).



# CHILD CLIENTS BENEFITING FROM THE VISION THERAPY STATION





The world of families and children with disabilities  
concerns us...

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



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