

BEGIN

Early Childhood Program
at the Center for the Visually Impaired



**Education and Support
for Infants, Preschoolers
and Their Families**



Do You Worry About...

- How to parent your child with a visual impairment or blindness?
- How a child with vision loss learns?
- How vision loss affects development?
- How to learn/teach braille?
- How your child with vision loss will learn or read?
- If your baby will grow up to be happy?



Above photo and cover photo by Paula M. Gould.

The mission of the Center for the Visually Impaired is to offer comprehensive services to promote independence with dignity and the preservation of self worth for individuals of all ages who are blind or visually impaired.



How We Help

The BEGIN program will:

- Provide a monthly newsletter about BEGIN activities/events and other resourceful information
- Conduct workshops, events and activities
- Introduce you to other families with children who have vision loss



A BEGIN Education Specialist will:

- Provide a functional vision assessment
- Provide a developmental assessment
- Identify learning and developmental needs
- Explain your child's visual diagnosis and implications
- Help plan for future educational needs

The BEGIN Teachers will:

- Create a working developmental and education plan
- Design activities that address your child's areas of need
- Help create a customized learning environment in the home
- Offer written, taped and Internet resources about your child's diagnosis and educational needs
- Provide periodic evaluations of growth
- Offer in-service and consultation to teachers and schools in the community

The BEGIN Family Counselor will:

- Help you start BEGIN services
- Help you find answers and resources
- Act as your family advocate and case manager
- Provide short-term family counseling



How to Start

Call BEGIN at 404.602.4330

- Tell BEGIN about you and your child
- Schedule a time to visit with our family counselor
- Schedule an eligibility assessment at BEGIN
- Help develop an education plan
- Meet with a BEGIN teacher

BEGIN Teaching Staff

BEGIN teaching staff are formally trained and specialize in the development and education of infants and preschoolers who are blind or visually impaired. The teaching staff has more than 70 years of combined experience helping parents learn to help their child with a visual impairment or blindness.

Learn

Assess

Support • Counsel • Teach • Call 404.875.9011



Classes

BEGIN Classes

Preschool Transition Classes

Three levels of early transition classes taught by our certified teachers, these sessions are designed to help children who are blind or visually impaired succeed in their other typical educational settings by focusing on the unique learning style of each child.

Other Classes

BEGIN also offers classes that provide family support, music therapy, braille education and general developmental information.

Center for the Visually Impaired

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