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All leaflets can be made available in audio tape, large print and Braille, or alternative languages on request.

April 2018

Parent Information - For Children Aged 0-2

Visual Attendance 2

Name of Service

Directs gaze from you to a small object of interest (less than 25 cm)			
Eye Movements			
Follows the movement of an object up to 1/3 metre away from R to L			
Follows the movement of an object from L to R			
Follows an object up and down			
Tracks the movement of an object across a table top from R to L & L to R			
Tracks random movements across a table top			
Notes:			

Visual Attendance 2

Capturing the child's visual interest helps to control the gaze and eye movements and large objects can then be extended gradually to greater distances (up to 3 metres). As the child develops these skills objects presented at approximately 12 – 25 cm they can begin to track slowly moving objects if rolled slowly across a table surface. At the same time, visual awareness and interest gradually develop and smaller objects can be used at the table top distance of 30-40 cm.

Children detect movement and therefore it is important to encourage movement of object to help your child visually attend.

Think about colour, non reflecting, light reflecting objects which are varying in size.

Activities to encourage visual attendance

- Start with large near object.
- Use favourite toys, eg, teddy bear and those which 'move on the spot', eg, a dangling spinning ball.
- Babies detect high contrast colours best. Use contrasting surfaces, eg, red toy on a yellow surface, black & white objects.
- When consistent 'looking' is achieved, extend object away.
- Change objects to add variety.
- Reduce size of object gradually.
- Prop a mirror in front of your child so the mirror is facing away from the window.
- When you child is lying on his back, put a visually attractive toy on his chest, to encourage him to tilt his head and look.

- Fix a shiny foil windmill near your child where it can be spun easily each time you pass him.
- Suspend foil Christmas decorations from a coat hanger of different lengths –suspended with strong elastic these are also good to touch and pull.
- String a wide length of elastic across your child's cot, hung with items such as shiny desert spoons, shatterproof foil Christmas decorations, Perspex cotton reels, a brightly coloured rattle, old CD's.
- Place fibre optic lamps/bubble lamps near your child – increase the distance away.

Look out for light reflecting mobiles to purchase, which allow light to reflect different colours through them.

Once your child is consistently visually looking, begin to try very small objects such as a toy brick, a tennis ball, small food items, eg a raisin or cereal, moving up/ and side to side.

Visual Attendance	Possibly	Definite-ly	Distance & speed of movement
Detects/looks at large objects 12 cm or over – dangling ball, favourite teddy			
Detects/looks at contrasting objects eg, black & white/red& yellow			
Detects football (12 cm)			
Detects tennis ball (6 cm)			
Detects toy brick (2.5 cm)			
Detects cereal or small food item			
Directs gaze from you to the large object of interest (More than 25 cm)			