

## Preparing a Student for a Vision Assessment

**The school team** includes the Teacher of Student with a Visual Impairment (TSVI), the Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing (TDHH), Intervenors, Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Classroom Teachers, Subject Teachers, Inclusion/Resource Teachers, Speech Language Pathologists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, and other specialists including your POPDB Teacher-Consultant.

### Working with the TSVI:

- › Can help to prepare the child with familiarity to symbols / numbers / letters that they may see at the appointment
- › Can use the practice with the LEA symbols that are often used at appointments
- › Can help the student learn the names of the symbols in sign language
- › Can help the student learn to point to the symbols as a matching activity
- › Can practice matching the letters or symbols at near and distance
- › Can practice with the room lights on and with the lights being low
- › Can make an Experience Book – in advance, with objects, photos, names of the professionals that the student will see
- › Can add the appointment to the student’s calendar system so they can anticipate when it will be happening.
- › Can talk about the environment – e.g., the waiting room, the doctor’s office
- › Someone from the school team can call the office where the appointment will be - to get some information about what will happen
- › If the office is close by, could plan a field trip to check out the office
- › Can help the student prepare questions for the professionals that they can ask

### **Accompany the family / student, if possible, to the appointment.**

If you are able, be prepared to take notes. This is important even if you do not understand what is being said. By recording information, you can learn more about, or ask about, what you have written down after the appointment with your TSVI.

If accompanying the student is not possible, prepare information that the family can take to the appointment. Check out the [forms on the POPDB website](#) titled: “Vision Exam for School Teams” and “Vision Exam for School Teams: A guide to filling out the form - Suggestions for observations and sample questions.”