

# Visually Impaired Preschool Program (VIP)

---

*Vision impaired children ages 0-5 years*

## The Program

A visually impaired child learns about the world by other ways than watching. The VIP, part of the Elizabeth Pierce Olmstead M.D. Center for Visually Impaired, is a special place where children with visual impairments can learn and grow – by listening, touching, trusting.

The VIP offers a full range of early intervention and preschool services for children from birth through age five; including: special education, vision therapy, orientation and mobility training, occupational therapy, speech therapy and physical therapy. VIP also provides opportunities for visually impaired children to plan and learn with their sighted peers in a multi-sensory environment.

Each student's potential is maximized to give him or her the very best chance to succeed in school and in life. Toward this end, preschool representatives meet with parents, school districts, medical providers and other professionals. Home and community-based services are provided to families on a flexible basis, including evenings and weekends. Service coordination services are also available.

## Results

Parent satisfaction surveys from 1990 to 1998 indicated that 76% of parents felt VIP helped their children socially, 76% of parents felt their child was at "grade level," and one reported their child at "above grade level."



## Learning Standards

**Health, Physical Education & Home Economics:** 3) understand and be able to manage their personal and community resources.

### Contact

Hope Bongiorno, M.S. Ed.  
Coordinator

Preschool Services  
700 Sweet Home Road  
Amherst, NY 14226

716-836-7556 Fax: 716-837-2829

E-mail [vipatolmsted@aol.com](mailto:vipatolmsted@aol.com)

Website: [www.Olmstedcenter.org](http://www.Olmstedcenter.org)