

Teaching the Student with a Visual Impairment

A Primer for the Classroom Teacher



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Teaching the Student with a Visual Impairment
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Materials Tote

Simulation Glasses Pattern: “Blind Glasses”

Reference Chapter 2

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There are many eye conditions with different manifestations, and individuals with low vision have varying degrees of eyesight. These glasses do not represent a specific eye condition, but they will give students an idea about how it is possible for people to be visually impaired and still see “something.”

These are easy and relatively inexpensive to make. Just cut a pattern from sheets of “frosted” plastic (sheet provided in Materials Tote,) or scratch the surface of transparent plastic with a sharp edge such as a letter opener, compass point, or knife. Punch holes in the extended side pieces and tie on some elastic cord or rubber bands. Round the corners if needed.

Think safety when you use these with students. If you want them to move around, be sure sighted guides are available to help them. Some seat activities might include the following:

- Look for the wall clock and check the time.
- Look for a special message on the chalkboard.
(Be sure to write one.)
- Remove a certain book from among things in a desk or book bag.
- Identify the color of eyes of the person in the next seat.
- Write a signature on a piece of paper.
- Write at least 3 lines with each of the following:
Pencil, ballpoint pen, felt marker

Use your imagination! There are many things to try to see. Discuss the level of difficulty, try to imagine how to overcome the obstacles.

