

Unveiling the Potential: How Children With Cortical Visual Impairment Can Learn To See

Cortical visual impairment (CVI) is a complex condition that affects how the brain processes visual information. It is different from other types of visual impairments, such as those caused by damage to the eyes or optic nerves. Children with CVI may have difficulty seeing objects clearly, tracking moving objects, or perceiving depth. They may also be sensitive to light and have difficulty with visual attention.

CVI can be caused by a variety of factors, including:



Little Bear Sees: How Children with Cortical Visual Impairment Can Learn to See by Andrei Tallent

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- Premature birth
- Birth defects
- Traumatic brain injury

- Stroke
- Certain genetic conditions

The symptoms of CVI can vary widely from child to child. Some children may have only mild symptoms, while others may have severe visual impairments. The symptoms of CVI can also change over time as the child's brain develops.

There is no cure for CVI, but there are treatments that can help to improve a child's vision and function. These treatments may include:

- Vision therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Educational support

Early intervention is key for children with CVI. The earlier a child receives treatment, the better the chances of improving their vision and function.

How Can Children With CVI Learn To See?

Children with CVI can learn to see through a variety of methods, including:

- **Vision therapy:** Vision therapy is a specialized type of therapy that helps children with CVI to improve their visual skills. Vision therapy exercises can help to strengthen the eye muscles, improve coordination between the eyes, and develop visual processing skills.

- **Occupational therapy:** Occupational therapy can help children with CVI to learn how to perform everyday tasks that require visual skills. Occupational therapists can also help children to develop adaptive strategies for dealing with their visual impairments.
- **Physical therapy:** Physical therapy can help children with CVI to improve their gross motor skills, balance, and coordination. Physical therapists can also help children to develop compensatory strategies for dealing with their visual impairments.
- **Speech therapy:** Speech therapy can help children with CVI to develop their language skills. Speech therapists can also help children to learn how to communicate with others who have difficulty seeing.
- **Educational support:** Children with CVI may need additional support in school to help them succeed. Educational support can include providing children with assistive technology, such as magnifiers or talking books, and modifying lessons to meet their individual needs.

With early intervention and appropriate treatment, children with CVI can learn to see and function well in the world. They can go on to lead full and productive lives, and achieve their full potential.

Resources for Families

The following resources can provide additional information and support for families of children with CVI:

- Cortical Visual Impairment International
- American Council of the Blind
- Perkins School for the Blind

- Lighthouse Guild
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: Cortical Visual Impairment

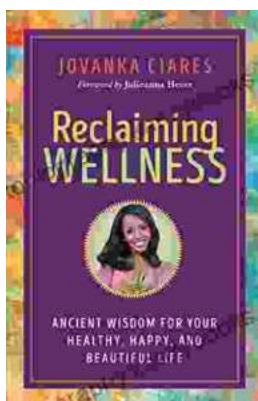
Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for general informational purposes only and should not be construed as medical advice. If you have any concerns about your child's vision, please consult with a qualified healthcare professional.



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