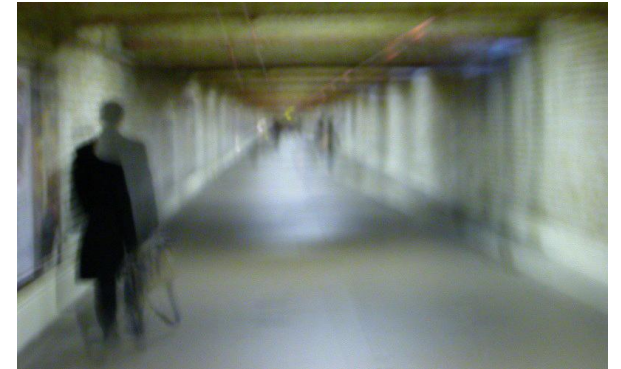
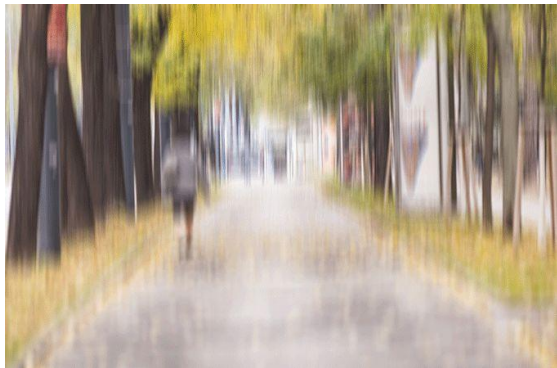


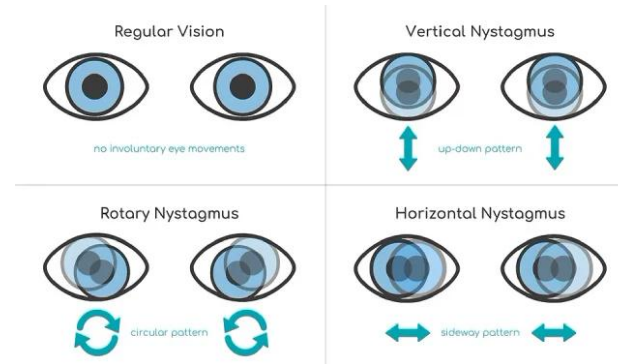


Visual Impairment needs at Foxwood

By Lucy Harriman



Nystagmus



- Nystagmus is a condition that causes involuntary movement of the eye. This can be up and down, side to side or circular motions and is sometimes called a ‘wobble’.
- Nystagmus causes reduced vision and affects how clearly you can see.
- Nystagmus can occur from birth (infantile or congenital) or develop later in life (acquired).
- Nystagmus is different for every person and causes varying levels of sight impairment

RNIB- [Nystagmus | Eye condition information and support | RNIB](#)

Periventricular Leukomalacia (PVL)

- PVL is a brain injury where the white matter dies due to softening of the brain tissue. This is caused by lack of oxygen to the periventricular area of the brain in fetuses and newborns (particularly premature babies).
- PVL is caused by lack of blood flow to the brain during pregnancy
- PVL can cause motor disorders, delayed cognitive development, coordination problems and hearing and visual impairments. Commonly causing cerebral palsy.
- PVL cannot be treated but support can be given to reduce symptoms
- PVL can reduce the visual field, cause nystagmus or esotropia and cause visual processing difficulties

GOSH- <https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/conditions-and-treatments/conditions-we-treat/periventricular-leukomalacia/>

Esotropia



- Esotropia is a form of misalignment in the eye meaning one or both of the eyes turn inwards towards the nose.
- This is caused by the muscles and nerves that control movement of the eyes not coordinating and causing involuntary movement.
- Esotropia is often referred to as being “cross-eyed”
- This can often cause self-esteem issues due to the appearance of esotropia so it is important to provide wellbeing support wherever possible.
- Esotropia can cause visual strain on the eyes due to positioning to see things from the correct angle

NHS Foundation Trust-

<https://www.uhsussex.nhs.uk/resources/esotropia-inward-turning-eye/>

Hemianopia

- Hemianopia is the loss of up to half of visual field.
- This can occur on the same side in both eyes
- Hemianopia is caused by trauma to the brain affecting the visual pathways, such as brain tumour, stroke or traumatic brain injury
- The extent of visual field loss varies depending on the area of the brain affected but it will occur either on the left or right side.
- Hemianopia can affect all areas of life, reducing safety of mobility, challenging reading and visual information processing and increasing anxiety.

NHS Foundation Trust-

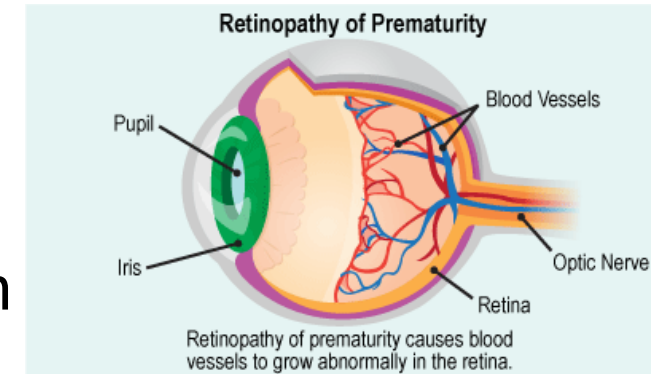
<https://mft.nhs.uk/app/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/REH-280-living-with-a-hemianopia.pdf>



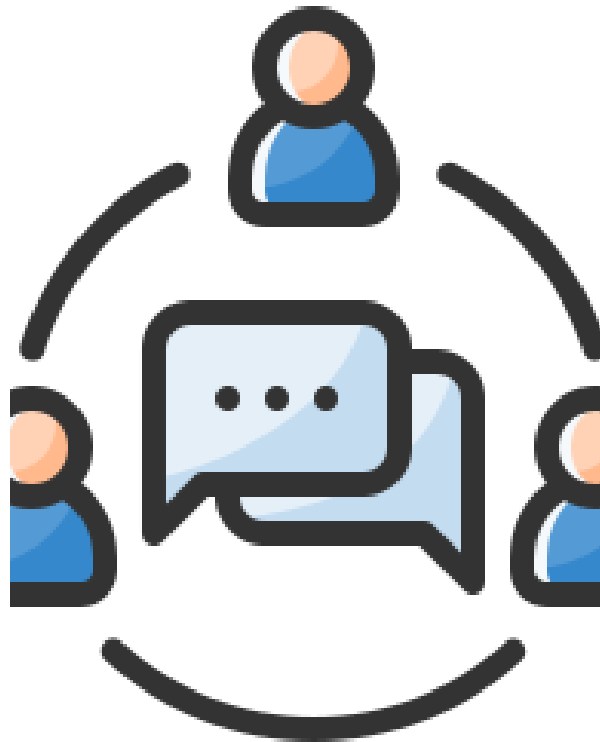
Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)

- ROP is an eye condition that affects babies that are born prematurely or have a low birth weight.
- ROP occurs when the growth of blood vessels from the optic nerve is interrupted prematurely meaning they do not fully connect to the retina, which allows vision
- ROP can be treated in babies however this treatment is not always successful and can lead to blindness or long-term visual impairment such as, myopia (near-sightedness), esotropia or retinal detachment.
- Symptoms of ROP can be reduced by wearing glasses

NHS Foundation Trust- <https://leaflets.ekhft.nhs.uk/retinopathy-of-prematurity-rop/html/>



Strategies to support



- **Positioning-**

- where is the student is sat in the classroom?
- if their vision is more affected on one side than the other sit on the opposite side of the classroom.
- Ensure there is a clear line of sight to the board and teacher that is free from visual obstructions.
- Consider distance, being too far can cause extra work

- **Visual clutter-**

- Ensure resources such as powerpoints, work sheets and paper hand outs are not cluttered with too much information
- images and backgrounds can cause extra visual scanning
- The key aim of the resource should be clear and identifiable
- extra work to find what they need to amongst useless visual information can take more time and increase fatigue

- **Written resources**

- words on paper resources and on the board in presentations needs to be readable for every student
- It is beneficial to have the text in a larger print size and bold
- plain visually reduced background so the words stand out

- **Visual aids**

- tools are available to make visual tasks easier and reduce visual fatigue
- typographs reduce visual scanning by highlighting reduced sections
- writing slopes angle work making it easier for students to see their own writing,
- tactile and enlarged rulers for measuring
- keyboard overlays to identify single numbers and letters.

- **Communication-**

- Visual impairments can impact on student wellbeing and it is important that they are at the centre of what support they need
- Listen to what students are telling you and have check ins if they appear to be struggling with anything.
- think about how we communicate
- always say the name of the student before you start talking as if they cannot see you, they may not know you are talking to them.
- Think about where you position yourself and how you approach students so you know they can see you and are less overwhelmed.

Visual Passport

- These are all conditions that affect current students at Foxwood.
- These conditions can present challenges for our pupils within school, so it is important that staff know how to meet visual needs and reduce the impact on students in school both academically and socially.
- Pupils with visual impairments will have a bespoke visual passport created. This includes details of their visual impairment, the impact this has on them and the strategies used to support them at school.
- All staff working with these pupils should read this document and can access this through provision map or a paper copy kept in class.