

Meet Vincent

Vincent was 5 months old when his parents noticed he had challenges with his vision and was not meeting the typical milestones. After having multiple eye surgeries and getting glasses, Vincent and his family began working with Cleveland Sight Center's Early Intervention team (EI).

The EI team at CSC helps families like Vincent's navigate the challenges that come with having a child with vision loss. The EI team provides the support, education and tools needed to help the child and the entire family thrive.

Vision is a key part of reaching early developmental milestones. For a child who cannot see well, it's important to have an adapted way to achieve these milestones. **That's where the early intervention staff at CSC steps in.**

Initially, Vincent's Early Intervention Specialist, Angela, identified that using things he liked helped to guide him visually. For example, the first preference she identified was his favorite color, blue. After figuring this out, Vincent's Mom, Jane, incorporated blue utensils and plates into mealtime to help him locate his utensils. **He then quickly learned to feed himself independently.**

As he grew older, Vincent developed an interest in technology. After Jane tried for months to teach Vincent shapes with no success, Angela suggested she take photos of the shapes with her phone. By adapting to his preferences, he was able to identify shapes within a week.



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“For us, learning those adaptations was almost like switching on a light switch and everything else fell into place,” Jane said. “He was then able to grow in gross motor, fine motor and speech, so it's really been phenomenal.”

Since beginning their journey at CSC with EI services, Vincent has also participated in the Bright Futures summer sessions and the Blind Sports Clinic with Youth Challenge.

“As a parent of a child with a visual disability, we have been connected to various resources and none compare to the Sight Center. The level of support offered has been life changing. I credit so much of my son's milestones, achievement and academic success to the early intervention services of CSC.”

Your support is integral to helping change the lives of people like Vincent and Jane. Visit Cleveland Sight Center's website to make a donation and learn more about how you can make an impact: clevelandsightcenter.org/content/donate-now