

# Blind or Partially Sighted

### Condition:

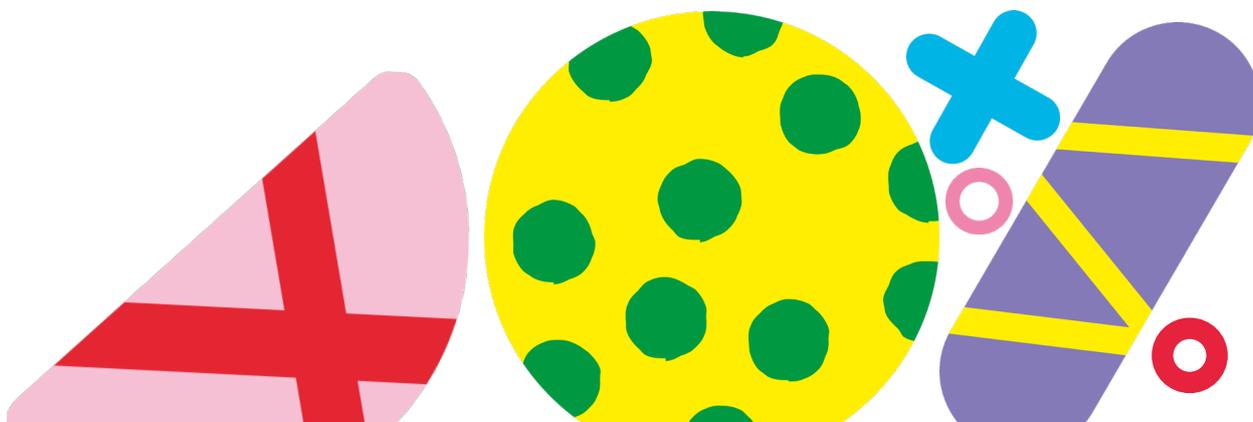
Children who are blind or who are partially sighted are not uncommon. The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) report that there are over 2 million people in the UK with sight problems. Many of these will be older, however thousands of children are born blind or partially sighted, while some will lose their sight due another illness or condition, or through accident or injury.

### Problem Areas:

- Difficulties gaining access to and moving around the building.
- Problems reading printed resources, books, Bibles.
- Problems reading projection screens.
- Problems understanding who is speaking.
- These difficulties exasperated by poor or low lighting.

### Support strategies for your Group:

- Ensure that all approaches and entrances to the building are free from obstructions, protruding signs, overhanging branches etc.
- Make sure that all glass doors have contrasting, boldly coloured panels to prevent a partially sighted child from walking into them.
- Introduce yourself to a blind or partially sighted child when they arrive, make it clear when you are addressing them or someone else in a group, and let them know when you leave.
- Be aware of the reading needs of the child. Provide printed materials in large print on contrasting matt colour paper (black on pastel colours is best) if appropriate but also see if Braille versions of materials are available if the child uses it. Also consider the use of audio cassette, CD, or .MP3 material if this is suitable.
- If using a projector, use large font sizes (30 point or bigger), with contrasting colour schemes. Try not to use background images if possible. Make sure that a summary of what is written on the screen is spoken so that children with no sight can follow it.
- If a young person uses a guide dog (older teens may do so) make sure there is space provided next to them for the guide dog to sit, and provide water for the dog if required.





- Good lighting is important, particularly the use of natural light and ‘natural light’ light-bulbs, which make colours and detail appear much clearer.
- Use the international symbol at the entrance and on all information, notice boards etc. to show that you provide facilities for blind and partially sighted people.



### **Further information:**

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)  
Sense  
Torch Trust

[www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)  
[www.sense.org.uk](http://www.sense.org.uk)  
[www.torchtrust.org](http://www.torchtrust.org)

*‘Invited to Belong’ has been developed in partnership between Urban Saints and Youthscape.*



*Youthscape*

[www.urbansaints.org/invitedtobelong](http://www.urbansaints.org/invitedtobelong)