

# Assessment of Mobility Visual Impairment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Date of Birth and current age: \_\_\_\_\_

A person who is blind (e.g., no light perception, light perception, light projection) requires a mobility tool for independent safe mobility. People who are visually impaired may or may not need mobility tools. Toddlers and preschoolers who have a visual impairment can be identified as mobility visually impaired by conducting the following mobility visual impairment (MVI) assessment.

The assessment of MVI uses knowledge of the child's eye condition and observable outcomes to identify learners who require mobility tools for independent safe mobility

## 1. Child's Eye Condition

### Clinical Visual Impairments Indicative of Mobility Visual Impairment

Diagnosis:

	Clinical Eye Condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Measurable acuity above 20/800 or worse</b> - measured acuity
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Object form perception</b> – No measurable acuity, sees shapes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Restricted visual field</b> - Restricted visual field that causes obstacle contacts on the side of the body that corresponds to the blind spots (unsafe mobility).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tunnel vision represented in degrees – 10 degree or 20 degree field</b> indicates when looking forward the child does not have the same information of what is on either side, above, or below.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Restricted lower field</b> means specifically the child vision is missing information about the path ahead of the next step.

## 2. Observable Outcomes

Mobility visual impairment can cause delayed independent walking milestone attainment by age 15 months. MVI may also result in reduced purposeful physical activity. A person with MVI is unable to visually avoid obstacles, and therefore, if the child is walking and running the outcome is much less safe than a child who is sighted.

### A. Independent Walking Milestone Attainment

Review the chart below. Compare the child's current age to expected motor milestones.

A child who is MVI and 15 months old may demonstrate the ability to walk across open space, however a child with MVI is unable to achieve the 18-month milestone, 'walks well avoiding obstacles' by 18 months of age. A child who is MVI is unable to achieve 24-month runs independently avoiding obstacles. If a child is running well avoiding obstacles by 24 months, the child is not MVI.

Milestone age in Months	Observable Characteristics	
10	Stands (pulls to stand, stands when holding on to something - not walking)	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Cruises (takes steps when holding onto furniture)	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Stands independently in open space, walks with hand-held assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Walks independently in open space with poor balance (wide based gait and lifts hands/arms up for balance, unable to avoid obstacles).	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Walks well independently in open space (uses narrow gait, reciprocal arm swing, able to avoid obstacles).	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Runs well independently avoiding obstacles	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Walking and running 'well'** is defined as walking purposefully toward objects and people with no need for adult prompts while easily avoiding all obstacles visually.

*A child who is visually impaired and milestone age is below chronological age may benefit from wearing a belt cane.*

**Child's Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

Observe the child during wake time and determine his/her current independent walking milestone.

Choose the milestone description above that best describes the child's current independent walking ability.

Current Independent Walking Milestone Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Expected level of physical activity

The third indicator of MVI is physical activity level. A child who is MVI who has developed the ability to walk should be evaluated for present amount of physical activity.

Physical Activity Age in Months	Expected level of Physical Activity	Appropriate Assistance Level	
12	3 to 5 hours per day	Prompts and assistance for walking	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	4 to 6 hours per day	Fading prompts & assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	5 to 7 hours per day	Introduction of rules	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	6 to 8 hours per day	Enforcement of rules (don't touch, hold hand)	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	During waking hours	Enforcement of rules (stay with the group)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Physical activity is self-initiated, purposeful activity that is completed using the age-appropriate independent walking milestone to obtain objects and locate people. There should be no need for adult prompts to encourage this level of physical activity.

*A child who is visually impaired and physical activity age is below chronological age may benefit from wearing a belt cane.*

Child's Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Determine current amount of physical activity by observing the child during wake time.

*Describe the activities observed:*

Current physical activity Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## **C. Unavoidable Collisions**

Another indicator of MVI is when the outcome of walking or running are collisions with obvious obstacles. A child who is MVI who has developed the ability to walk should be evaluated for collisions with walls, furniture, toys, and people. After 18 months a child who is visually impaired and walking but does not demonstrate the ability to visually avoid obstacles, is unsafe due to mobility visual impairment.

**Observation report:**