

*Remember – every child or young person with a visual impairment is different and their visual loss can range from mild to profound*

The child should always be positioned with their back to the sunlight and should avoid facing any brightness and glare as this will impede their vision. Avoid standing in front of the window when talking to the child.

Ensure all visual resources such as pictures are of a good contrast, bold, clear and simple. If laminated then a matt finish should be used.

Write with dark colours, ideally black or blue on a white background. Use a bold, clear and simple font with a minimum font size 18.

Be aware that they may not see or respond to facial expression, gesture or body language. Always indicate to the child when the conversation has ended or you are leaving.

## Tips for working with children with a visual impairment

When you approach the child use their name so they will know you are talking to them. Always introduce yourself to the child.

Ensure the child has a front seating position. The child should be given the opportunity to view artefacts and objects at close range and handle them if possible.

Use descriptive language and explain what is about to happen. Sometimes the child may need a verbal prompt to anticipate what is going to happen next such as: 1,2,3 or ready, steady, go. Help with directional movement and body orientation (move to the left, the balloon is straight ahead of you).