



CARTER WILLIAMS

CORTICAL VISION IMPAIRMENT (CVI)



WHAT IS CORTICAL VISION IMPAIRMENT?

CVI refers to a brain condition, not an eye condition, and results from damage to the visual systems in the brain that deal with processing and integrating visual information.



ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE...

CVI is a leading cause of vision loss among kids in the United States.

CVI CHARACTERISTICS

Children with CVI display a number of specific behaviors. Understanding these specific behaviors will assist individuals in appropriate interactions and interventions with children who have CVI.

EXAMPLES:

- Preference for a specific color
 - Carter's is Red!
- Need for movement
 - Carter loves fans and blinking lights.
- Preference for familiar objects
 - Carter can easily make eye contact with his mom, since she is familiar. He cannot make eye contact with unfamiliar people.

DID YOU KNOW?



There are 3 phases of CVI!

Most children start in Phase I, which means that most of the CVI characteristics are present. As a child progresses through the three phases many of the characteristics begin to resolve. This process can take several years and requires diligence and persistence. Children in Phase III approach near normal vision to varying degrees and this may even result in literacy.

Carter is in Phase 2!



CVI TIPS AND TRICKS!



Opportunities to use and improve vision should be incorporated into your child's everyday life. For example, to help Carter understand what a cup is, we did the following:

- Added red shiny mylar paper to the outside of the cup. We used ONLY this cup until his vision progressed enough for us to introduce new cups.
- Because latency is a common characteristic of CVI, we give Carter the time he needs to be able to respond visually. It could take up to 5 minutes.

IS THERE A CURE?

In short, no. There is no cure, but with intervention, modifications and accommodations, dramatic vision improvement is possible!

