

Case study: Visual Impairment

Integrated Services for Learning: Visual Impairment (VI) team

Family situation

Reeah is an 11 year old with congenital eye conditions Born with Lebers, a congenital eye condition that causes sight loss and Nystagmus, another visual impairment where the eyes roam and are unable to focus. Reeah could not manage schooling without support.

<http://www.blindness.org/eye-conditions/leber-congenital-amaurosis>

Family's needs

Reeah can see light and some colours and shapes but is unable to see any detail, such as words or writing. She needs daily support at school to be able to understand what the seeing child does, and to be able to translate it into her notes or assignments, done through Braille. See Reeah's competent Braille work here.

Meet Reeah here on [YouTube](#)

Background

Reeah was diagnosed at about six months old. Things were very different then. There were no children's centres or website information such as the Local Offer, even if you owned a computer. We had nowhere to turn for advice and support. Reeah also had problems with feeding as a baby; she didn't walk or talk until two years old and regularly needed physiotherapy. Had our health visitor not referred Reeah to the Visual Impairment team, I don't know what we would have done."

Our actions:

ISL provides the support of a Specialist Teaching Assistant from the VI team. Other members of the VI team (Specialist Advisory Teacher, Habilitation Specialist and Curriculum Access Specialist) visit the school several times a week to support Reeah and her teachers. These team members have been there every step of the way to support Reeah with lessons, learning braille and computer skills, her mobility such as use of a cane and finding her way around the school. They see her so regularly at school to provide support and encouragement that Reeah finds it easy to talk to them about any concerns or problems she may have. "They're amazing, and have helped Reeah to be the confident and happy girl she is" said her mum.