# How low vision can influence learning

CHALLENGES

Will vary from student to student

- Processing visual information.
- Accessing technology.
- Learning social and daily living skills.
- Organisation.
- Moving around the classroom and school.
- Communicating their learning needs.
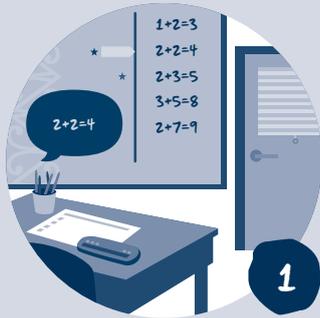
### 1 Adjust the classroom

- Check that the classroom, doorways and toilets are easy to access.
- Check the lighting. Curtain off windows for light sensitive students.
- Give students time to get to know their way around in the classroom.
- Keep the classroom free of clutter and reduce visual clutter (in class, on the board, on handouts).
- Set up the classroom so that all students can use the tools and equipment and participate in all curriculum areas.

- Give students extra time to move around the classroom and between classes.
- Be aware of the fonts you use in class – minimum of 12 point, left aligned, avoid large amounts of italics, block capitals and underlining, use bold for emphasis, provide contrast (black font on white or yellow on dark blue).
- Verbalise what is being written on the board.
- Find out where a student needs to position themselves and their desk to get the best view of the board.
- Present visual materials against a contrasting background to make them easier to see.
- Set out your board work in a clear, consistent format with good contrast, for example, using columns, grouping information and using large, clear and uncluttered writing.
- Use visual tools such as fluorescent stars and stickers to highlight information on the board.
- Use thick-nibbed, black pens (avoid colour) on whiteboards.
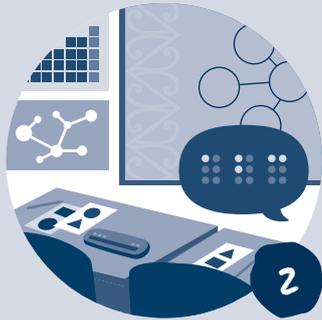
Present curriculum content in different ways

2

▸ Find out how your students use vision in different situations.

▸ Use good contrast in all written information.

▸ Use a range of teaching materials (enlarged print and braille)

▸ Give explicit and concrete instructions and explanations.

▸ Talk to a Resource Teacher: Vision about teaching life and keyboarding skills.
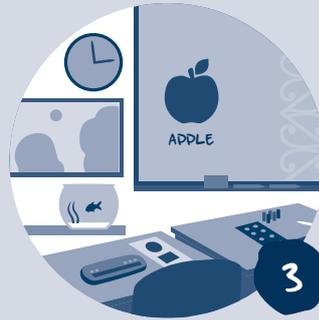
Stimulate interest and motivation for learning

3

▸ Provide teaching materials in accessible formats and in the student's preferred medium.

▸ Use tactile learning materials.

▸ Avoid vision fatigue – schedule frequent breaks, encourage students to look up and into the distance after reading several pages of print, reduce the amount of text to be copied, encourage students to change from reading print to something entirely different.

▸ Allow additional time to complete tasks.
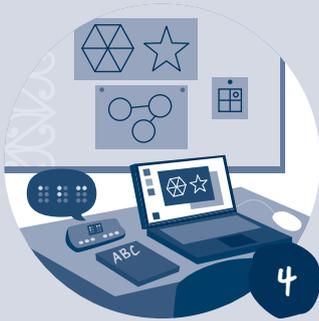
4 Use technology and equipment

- ▸ Have the students use laptops, desktops or tablets to present their ideas.
- ▸ Support students to use technology such as a brailler or voice-recognition software.
- ▸ Allow students to use technology to take snapshots of and up-size the content on the board.

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