



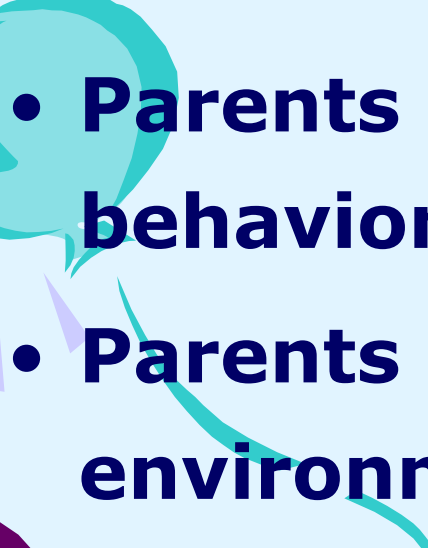
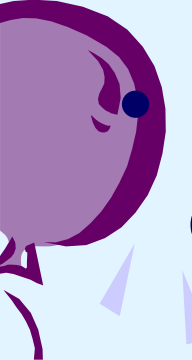
# **Your Expectations: What They Really Mean**

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# Parent Power

- **Parents (caregivers) are the most powerful influence in a child's life.**
  - **Parents provide unconditional love.**
  - **Parents model through their behaviors...values, beliefs, biases.**
  - **Parents reinforce learning in natural environments.**
  - **Parents' expectations can make a difference.**
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# Sibling Power

- **Siblings are an extremely important influence in a child's life.**
- **Siblings provide unconditional love but also provide a raw reality and social perspective that few others have...intolerance of weirdness.**
- **Siblings reinforce age-appropriate learning in natural environments.**
- **Siblings' expectations can make a difference.**




# Parent Challenges

- **Responsibilities – 24/7.**
- **Lack of training in disability techniques.**
- **Few, if any, role models.**
- **Societal stigmas and prejudices.**
- **Other children and spousal demands.**
- **Shelter and well-being responsibilities.**
- **Transportation demands.**
- **Advocacy role imposed, not chosen.**



# Sibling Challenges

- **It's hard to be invisible.**
  - **Difficult sometimes to get parents' attention.**
  - **Societal stigmas and prejudices.**
  - **No one tells you what to do to help your brother or sister to fit in.**
  - **You may feel imposed upon, resentful, or jealous.**
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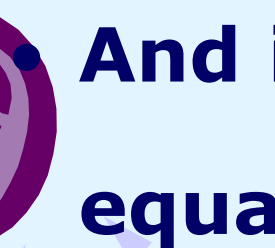


# Parent Rewards

- **Joy of parenting next generation!**
- **Opportunity to see dreams come to fruition...legacy concept.**
- **Influence on younger generation.**
- **Support of community & culture.**
- **Fun with youngsters...uninhibited by adult responsibilities & expectations.**
- **Someone to assume responsibility for you in the future.**



# Sibling Rewards

- **You get to learn early on about the importance of diversity.**
  - **You may well be more responsible and mature than many of your friends without disabled siblings.**
  - **And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make...**
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# What you may not know...

- **It's okay to be blind...lots of very successful adults with jobs, families, homes, etc. are visually impaired.**
- **There are lots of adapted tools (aids & appliances) that can make life more livable for people with VI.**
- **There is no mystery to teaching a blind child...use common sense!**



# What you may not know...

- **Treating your blind child the way you would treat any child (same rewards, punishments, expectations) is critical.**
- **The stigma is in being unable to do for yourself or being awkward when you could be skilled (e.g., cane, braille!!!).**
- **Your attitude toward blindness and low vision influences your child's.**

# What you may not know to do...

- **Reach out to blind & low vision folks for advice about AT, any tricks of the trade!**
- **Use the Internet, read books & magazines, ask questions of professionals and adults with VI.**
- **Attend consumer conventions and professional conferences.**
- **Ask your child...**



# Resources

## **Books:**

***Skills for Success***

***Focused On...Social Skills***

***Teaching Social Skills***

***ECC Essentials***

***Transition Tote system***



# Resources

**A Parents' Guide to Special Education  
for Children with Visual  
Impairments (AFB Press)**



**NAPVI & NOPBC (Future Reflections)**

**[www.familyconnect.org](http://www.familyconnect.org)**

**[www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)**

**[www.e-advisor.us](http://www.e-advisor.us)**

**[www.tsbvi.edu](http://www.tsbvi.edu)**



**[www.blindchildrenscenter.org](http://www.blindchildrenscenter.org)**



# Resources

[www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu)

[www.uacoe.arizona.edu/viliteracy/](http://www.uacoe.arizona.edu/viliteracy/)

[www.afb.org/braillebug](http://www.afb.org/braillebug)

[www.afb.org/careerconnect](http://www.afb.org/careerconnect)

[karenwolffe@gmail.com](mailto:karenwolffe@gmail.com)

**People, people, people..**



**Thank-you**

**...for your participation  
and support of children  
with visual impairments!**