

Expanding the Possibilities for Children with CVI in Australia

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Overview

- What is CVI?
- The CVI Range Assessment
- Luka's Story
- Interventions
- CVI Community Australia

Definitions

- Cerebral Vision Impairment

Definitions

- Cortical Vision Impairment
 - An ocular eye exam that is normal or cannot explain the functional vision impairment,
 - A history of a significant congenital or acquired brain injury or neurological disorder, and
 - The presence of unique visual characteristics and behaviours.

(Roman-Lantzy, 2018)

The CVI Range Assessment

- Developed by Dr Christine Roman-Lantzy (2007, 2018).
- Provides a means of:
 - Understanding how children with CVI see
 - Developing appropriate interventions
 - Monitoring progress and improvements in functional vision

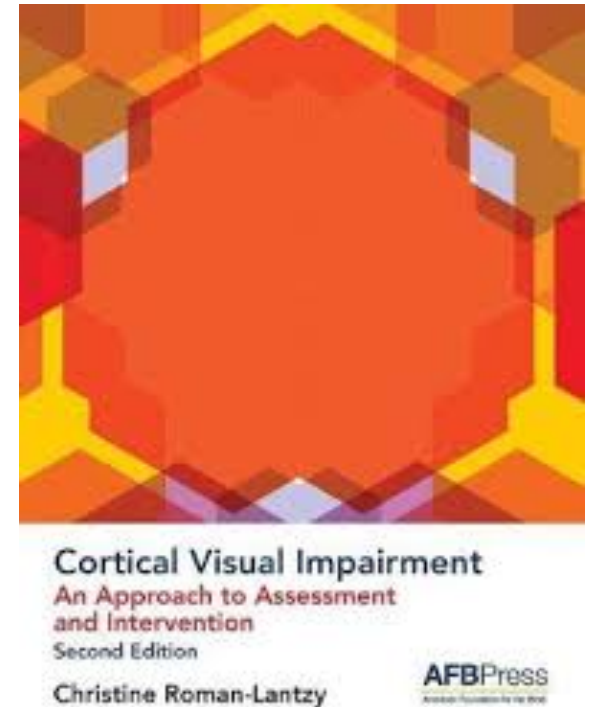


Image of text book entitled “Cortical Visual Impairment, An Approach to Assessment and Intervention” by Christine Roman Lantzy

Luka's Story

- Born healthy at 36 weeks
- Widespread white matter injury following meningoencephalitis and sepsis at 14 days (NICU 2 weeks)
- Could not consistently track at 6 months, emerging Phase 3 at last assessment (18 months)

“The rollercoaster has just begun” –
Neonatologist, NICU



Image of Luka, a young boy. Luka is on a swing, smiling.

Intervention

- **Medical**
 - Neonatologist
 - Paediatrician
 - Neurologist
 - Ophthalmologist and Orthoptist (Aus and UK)
 - Orthotist (Ankle and Foot Orthotics)
- **Therapy**
 - Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy
 - Orientation and Mobility
 - Speech Therapy, Music Therapy
 - Early Education Specialist
- **Activities**
 - Mini Maestros, Swimming, Kindergym
 - Community Play House (parent-run playgroup)

Collaboration between therapists and specialists is crucial so we can tailor Luka's program to his specific CVI needs

Luka's CVI Characteristics

Every child displays the 10 characteristics differently. Some specific examples for Luka:

Characteristic	What I need	How to help me
Colour preference	I prefer blue, shiny metallic and high contrast objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline (steps, drink bottle etc) • Use favourite/contrasting colour when learning new skills
Difficulty with visual complexity	I may struggle to use my vision in unfamiliar or cluttered environments, or when engaging in a new skills (e.g. walking)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New activities in quiet, familiar environment • Avoid “activity jumping” • Have a “quiet escape”
Light gazing	When I’m tired or distracted, I look at light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backlit objects/ipad • Take an opportunity for a visual break
Preference for familiar objects	I may need time to understand a new toy by mouthing, feeling and THEN looking and interacting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present new toys over a longer time, or over multiple sessions • Use familiar objects/colours for new skills • TIME and PATIENCE

Key Learnings

- TIME for our children – so they are confident to explore their world, their way;
- EMPOWERMENT for our parents/carers – connecting primary carers to practical information and support;
- COLLABORATION for our therapists – learning from each other so therapy is tailored to child's specific needs for the best outcomes

Having fun is the best way to learn – Albert Einstein

CVI Community Australia

- We are a voluntarily-run community led by parents and professionals, for parents, professionals, carers and others.
- Our goal is to create a central space in Australia to share learning and ideas about Cortical Vision Impairment.
 - *Please join our Facebook Community and sign up to receive our blog posts - <https://www.cvicommunityaus.net>*

CVI Community Australia



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