Using the Early Support developmental journal for babies and children with visual impairment

Course description
The course
Using the developmental journal is a training workshop that helps participants use the developmental journal to monitor and celebrate the progress of babies and children with visual impairment and to use the activity cards to support effective early intervention for them, across all areas of their development.

This material is designed for families with a young child with visual impairment and for the professionals who work with them. It enables parents to track their child’s development, helping them to record and celebrate progress through the early years.

The activity cards that are part of the developmental journal help families understand what they can do to promote their child’s progress, including using any vision that is available. The developmental journal supports partnership working between families and professionals by providing a shared basis for discussion and a common framework of reference when many different people are in contact with a child and family. It supports effective early intervention by improving everyone’s understanding of the developmental processes involved.

Who it’s for
The workshop will be valuable for parents/carers and practitioners from all disciplines involved with children with visual impairment from birth to 5 years and their families.

How you’ll benefit
You will gain knowledge and understanding and build confidence in the use of the developmental journal, so that it can be used as part of a mutually respectful working relationship between parents and practitioners. Parents who have a child with visual impairment find that they have to change and adapt so they can cope with the new and unexpected issues and problems that they now face as a family. Helping families to adapt and to move forward is a complex process, but an integral part of this is helping them to understand and provide for their child’s needs effectively. In this training we focus on the process and on some of the materials that might support parents and practitioners to reach this point of understanding – in particular, the use of the Early Support developmental journal for babies and children with visual impairment.

Course structure
This workshop can be run over one and a half or two days. Participants will learn how the developmental journal fits into the Early Support programme, how it was developed, what it contains and how to use it. They will also learn about the specific needs and areas of particular developmental difficulties for children with impaired vision.

Where courses are held
The courses will be held at various locations in England depending on demand. You will need to contact an Early Support approved training provider in your area. We aim to train people in groups of no more that 20 participants (and not less than 10).