

# Self-Determination Lesson Plans

## Unit 1: The Eye and Sight

### Lesson 5: How is MY Eye Special?

#### Unit Goal:

Student will describe how the visual system functions and also the nature of his/her individual visual system (cause of specific visual impairment).

#### Lesson objective(s):

Student will describe the nature of his or her visual impairment, including the specific structures that are affected and how this impacts how he/she sees.

#### Teaching procedures/steps:

Step	Actions	Vocabulary
Anticipatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review parts of the eye.</li> <li>• Discuss differences and similarities that can be found among eyes in both the animal and human worlds.</li> </ul>	
Introduction	“We've learned that eyes are similar in many ways but also that eyes can have many differences and that this is a natural thing. Today, let's talk about our own eyes and what might be special about them.”	
Stating the Goal	“Once we are finished with today's lesson, you will be able to tell people all about your own eyes and your own vision.”	
Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The content of this lesson will, of course, be very individualized according to the nature of the student's visual impairment.</li> <li>• Using an eye model, chart or drawing, point out structures that are affected by the student's etiology.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the path that light takes through the visual system, noting how the affected structures in turn affect what the student sees.</li> </ul>	Vocabulary will be specific to the student's visual impairment.
Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may want to introduce a term, such as "visual impairment" at this time, explaining that it is used to indicate when an individual's vision is different from that of most other persons.</li> </ul>	visual impairment extraordinary vision

Step	Actions	Vocabulary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternatively, you might want to wait and present this concept as a separate lesson during the "History" or "Rights" Units.</li> </ul>	atypical vision different vision
Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate a website with information specific to the student's visual impairment and explore it together.</li> <li>Obtain a book that addresses the visual impairment and read together.</li> <li>Create your own booklet using information from a website to explore together.</li> </ul>	
Check for Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using a model or chart of the eye, student independently demonstrates part of the eye affected by visual impairment and how this, in turn affects vision.</li> <li>Student draws a picture of her eye and writes a short paper or paragraph that describes their visual impairment.</li> </ul>	
Closure	<p>"Sometimes our friends or our teachers might not understand why you are not able to see certain things in the same way that they see them. Knowing how your vision is special can help you explain it to them. In the future, we will talk about some more ways that we can help other people better understand your special vision (visual impairment)."</p>	

### Rationale:

Having the knowledge of how his or her own eyes function, and the vocabulary to talk about it, will enable the student to better advocate for him- or herself with peers and adults.

Note: The amount and type of information presented in this lesson will vary to a great degree based not only on the student's visual impairment but also his/her age and grade level.

### Resources:

#### Websites

- Albinism - <https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/albinism.html>

#### Books

- My Fair Child* by Maureen Ryan (albinism)
- Albino Animals* by Kelly Milner Halls