

Parent / Guardian Pediatric Low Vision Collaboration Clinic Letter KanLovKids Program

DATE: _____

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child is scheduled for a Pediatric Low Vision Collaboration Clinic (PLVCC) Evaluation on _____ (appointment time will be arranged with you at least a week before the date of the clinic). The PLVCC will be held at _____ (room/address of clinic).

What is the purpose of the Pediatric Low Vision Collaboration Clinic (PLVCC)?

The primary purpose of the PLVCC is to facilitate a conversation about your child's eye condition, and to answer questions that you, or others on his/her support team, have about his/her vision. Dr. Linda Lawrence, an ophthalmologist from Salina, will conduct the functional vision examination and facilitate the conversation. It is an opportunity for you as parents, early interventionist, or school staff, to talk informally with one another, and to share critical information, which will support the child's abilities at home and within his/her community.

Dr. Lawrence's exam may also include dilating drops placed in your child's eyes to further examine the inner structures. The pupils may remain large for a day, and the child may be sensitive to bright lights.

What should I expect to have happen at the PLVCC?

There are two main parts: 1) to meet with the doctor and have him/her examine your child's eyes to provide information about his/her eye condition and visual status/abilities, and 2) to participate with your team members in a meeting to talk about what today's examination means and how to incorporate what you've learned into your child's/family's daily routine.

How long does the PLVCC appointment last?

We ask that you plan no less than 60 minutes, and no more than 90.

My child just had an eye exam a few months ago. Does s/he still need to come to the PLVCC?

The PLVCC is not structured to take the place of your child's eye examination with your family's eye care doctor (pediatric ophthalmologist, etc.). You need to follow the regularly scheduled appointments recommended by your child's eye care doctor. The PLVCC is a different form of an exam. Below are statements, which outline major conversation points that the PLVCC is designed to address:

To increase:

- knowledge of your child's eye condition;
- knowledge of how your child's eye condition affects his/her functioning;
- knowledge of how many things your child can see at near;
- knowledge of how many things your child can see in the distance; and
- expectations for what your child may be able to do with his/ her vision.

To facilitate a discussion, which will foster the effectiveness of my child's:

- ability to see more things without needing help from others;
- ability to become more visually aware of changes that occur around him/her (e.g., finds items in a room more quickly, attends to objects or activities);
- ability to increase his/her interest in seeing at a distance; and
- ability to see increased number and types of items s/he can see at near.

And most importantly, to answer any questions that you or someone on your child's team may have.

Do you need anything from my child's records?

Yes, a current eye report from your child's ophthalmologist/optometrist, the Child/Family History form, Contact & Consent forms, and a functional vision/learning media assessment, or other vision reports from your child's TVI. These documents are required to help the doctor understand your child's eye condition, medical history, and educational programming. Also, an orientation and mobility (O & M) assessment is helpful if available. **Your child's TVI, O & M instructor, or primary coach will be responsible for returning these documents to KSSB at the date requested.**

Do I need to bring anything to the PLVCC appointment?

Yes, please bring toys and materials that your child likes to look at or play with. If your child has any equipment that you use to support his/her position (chair, pillow, etc.), then please bring that as well.

If I have questions about this clinic, who do I call?

If you have questions, then please contact the person who invited you to participate in this evaluation (e.g., the teacher of the blind and visually impaired, case manager, primary coach, etc). He/she will then coordinate with KanLovKid Program coordinator, Anne Nielsen, Kansas State School for the Blind, to answer your question(s).

**We are looking forward to your participation in this collaborative conversation!
Thank you!**