

# Our philosophy and background.

The Blind Children's Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1938 by the Delta Gamma Alumnae Association of Southern California. Each year the Center serves approximately 100 children who are blind or visually impaired and provides an array of support services for more than 300 family members. Our goal is to optimize each child's development and opportunities to lead a meaningful life through a comprehensive program beginning with early intervention, followed by an educational curriculum specifically adapted to the needs of each student. We are committed to a family-focused approach where parents, siblings, grandparents, and caregivers are included in the educational process every step of the way.

In keeping with best practices, our programs are fully inclusive with sighted children integrated in each class, providing unique opportunities for social interaction and acquisition of critical skills. Our multidisciplinary team of experts utilizes leading-edge technology and adaptive devices to help our students who are visually impaired keep pace in the sighted world. A model program, the Center impacts communities globally through presentations, conferences, and research grants, as well as a full suite of publications for families and professionals. In all, more than 750,000 copies of our publications have been distributed in 75 countries, and translated into 17 languages.

Throughout our long history a dedicated community of friends and supporters has sustained our vital work. We neither seek nor receive government assistance and are not a United Way Agency. Rather, the Center's funding reflects the generosity of private donors and the trust of foundations and corporations, which allows us to provide these life-changing services at no cost to our students and families.



BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER  
LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938



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**OUR MISSION:** To foster the development and education of children—birth through 2nd Grade—who are visually impaired in an inclusive, family-focused setting.

Education & Support  
for Children and Their Families.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHILDREN IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN

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

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“When we found out our baby daughter was born completely blind, we were lost. We had so many questions: Would she be able to feed herself? Where would she go to school? How would she learn to read? Would she have friends?”

- Father of a current preschooler



### FROM THE DARKNESS TO THE LIGHT

Feelings like this are common for parents faced

with this new diagnosis. But there is hope, right in the heart of Los Angeles. For more than 75 years, the Blind Children's Center has welcomed families, providing the best in early education and services for children, from birth through 2nd grade, who are blind or visually impaired. Thanks to the generosity of our private supporters, all of our services are provided at no cost to our students and their families.

“From the moment we walked in to the Center, we felt like we were home. Everyone was so understanding of what my husband and I were going through.”

- Mother of a recent graduate

### OUR FAMILY FOCUS



We work closely with every family to develop an individualized education program and therapeutic services tailored to their child's unique strengths and needs.

Our coaching model welcomes parents into the classroom to learn new strategies for supporting their child at home in order to maximize learning and progress. Recognizing that a diagnosis of a visual impairment impacts the whole family, we offer weekly family support groups, community outings for parents and caregivers, and parent mentoring opportunities. Ultimately, we prepare the entire family for a bright future.



### INCLUSION BENEFITS EVERYONE

In keeping with best practices, our programs are fully inclusive with sighted children integrated in each class, providing unique opportunities for social interaction and acquisition of critical skills. Children learn and play side-by-side throughout the school day, offering students with visual impairment the chance to model their typically developing peers. For our sighted students, the inclusion experience instills empathy and understanding beyond their years.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Blind Children's Center offers an infant services program, preschool and kindergarten through 2nd grade, all featuring a small class size. Our multidisciplinary team includes

Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Orientation & Mobility Specialists, who utilize cutting-edge technology and adaptive



devices to help our students who are visually impaired keep pace in the sighted world. The Center also provides consultations for physical, occupational and musical therapy. Services are available in both English and Spanish to meet the needs of our community.

“Thanks to the teachers and the rest of the staff at the Blind Children's Center, our daughter is currently a 4th grader at her local public school and happier than ever. We can't thank the Center enough.”

- Mother of a former student



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