

VLRC

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to work for a health care organization that changes people's lives? One that not only cares deeply about clients, but also values that its employees are its greatest asset?

Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada is a unique health services organization that serves people who are blind or partially sighted across the country. Our certified specialists provide training that empowers clients to develop or to restore activities of daily living skills, to promote their independence, to enhance safety and mobility. We work closely with ophthalmologists, optometrists and other health care professionals, by providing essential care on a referral basis in homes, workplaces and communities across the country.

We are proud to be a partner organization of CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind), working closely with CNIB team members to ensure Canadians who are blind or partially sighted have the skills, confidence and opportunities to lead independent lives.

We offer competitive salaries and benefits, flexible schedules, and opportunities to grow.

For more information about Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada, please visit visionlossrehab.ca or call 1-844-887-8572.

Date:

January 4, 2019

Job Title:

Specialist, Early Intervention

Term:

1 Year Contract, Full-time 35 hours per week (cover Maternity Leave)

Location:

Vancouver BC

Summary:

In covering a broad range of responsibilities that include completing initial interview and ongoing assessment of children birth to school age with vision loss to identify rehabilitation goals; and developing service plan to address goals with families. This position also develops individual intervention and therapy programs in accordance with goals. It also assists the child's family to access available resources to address their vision needs. This position also facilitates a child's transition into community and school programs.

This position provides functional expertise for the comprehensive multi-faceted service and operations program within a matrix reporting structure.

Essential Duties entail (but not limited to):

- May conduct/or participate in initial and ongoing assessments for children of various age groups with vision loss. Assists client and their family in developing habilitation goals.
- Develops individual intervention/therapeutic programs to assist children with vision loss in developing motor, visual, cognitive, self-care, social, literacy and sensory skills in accordance with vision habilitation goals.
- Evaluates clients' progress to revise service plans and implement programs that address client and family needs.
- Assesses environmental conditions, accessibility and safety in settings that the child encounters (home, preschool, playgrounds, etc.)
- Provides support and information to parents and caregivers on methods and techniques for helping to overcome barriers to inclusion. Provides support and information to parents/caregiver to enhance advocacy skills.
- Acts as a consultant/resource to the professional and service community regarding issues pertaining to children with vision loss including children with multiple disabilities.
- Provides interventions and supports to the child and family in the form of: direct intervention; resources and information; collaboration with other programs and service providers; presentations; and transition planning.
- Completes required documentation including individualized family service plan, assessments, progress reports, statistics on service delivery, etc.
- Keeps abreast of current materials, technology, standards of practice related to providing service to children with vision loss by review of professional literature, attending conferences/workshops and accessing other current sources of information

Relationships

- Interacts with clients, their family and caregivers to develop and identify vision related goals and develop early intervention and therapy programs, and support families to follow through on recommendations.
- Works closely and collaboratively with key partner organization Blind Beginnings
- Builds and maintains good working relationships with professionals in other agencies and community groups, particularly others on the child's therapy team.
- Educates stakeholders about VLRC and its specialized programs offered to children and their families and the importance of early intervention
- Works as a multi-disciplinary team and participates in team meetings
- Advocates on client's behalf in medical clinics, schools, etc. when possible.
- Instructs and supervises volunteers and students (and Occupational Therapy Assistants where applicable) to work with clients.

Problem Solving/Time Frame of Impact

- Position utilizes problem solving abilities related to implementing and developing intervention and therapy programs for children with vision loss.
- Problem solving involved in adapting programs, materials and equipment to address the needs of children with complex health conditions.
- In case of critical incidents such as indications of child abuse or medical emergencies the Early Intervention Specialist must immediately report concerns and ensure children are receiving appropriate care. Procedure varies by province.
- You must be able to work with a child's family recognizing their complex needs including; cultural, religious, mental health needs and/or emotional support.
- Delay in responding to referrals may result in a child not meeting their developmental potential and client/parent dissatisfaction.

Decision Autonomy

- Decision making based on training and experience working with children with visual impairments, and individual assessment and reassessment, to develop an appropriate service plan.
- Judgment is utilized for making decisions about method, schedule, and type of assessment and treatment and the manner in which parents are taught to follow through on recommendations.
- This position is itinerant, requiring frequent visits to family homes.

Leadership

- Provides leadership and guidance when training and supervising volunteers, parents, students and community.
- Takes initiative to develop/implement the most appropriate intervention for client and in maintaining current knowledge associated with children with vision loss.

Qualifications: (Education, Training, Experience):

Knowledge and Skill Requirements:

- Knowledge of childhood normal and abnormal development including extensive understanding of childhood disabilities
- Demonstrated understanding of vision loss
- Experience working with children with additional disabilities
- Training related to specialized seating and positioning, feeding, adaptive technology and sensory integration is an asset.
- Knowledge and understanding of cortical visual impairment is an asset
- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills
- Ability to build trusting relationships with children and families
- Experience supervising volunteers and support personnel an asset
- Ability to utilize computer and software programs.
- Excellent facilitation skills both in groups and individual situations
- Good organization and time management skills.

Experience and Education:

- Bachelors' in Early Childhood Education, Social Services or equivalent.
- Knowledge of early childhood development.
- 3 or more years' experience working with children with vision loss as well as children with additional disabilities is an asset.
- A valid driver's license is an asset
- First Aid certification

Work Environment

- Willingness to work flexible hours
- Willingness to work in a variety of settings (in client home, outdoors, daycare, etc.)
- Travel will be required.

Closing Date for Applications: February 1, 2019

Please Send the Application to: andrea.gronfeldt@cnib.ca and quote the job title in the subject line

Please send cover letter and resume; and mention how you learned of this position.

VLRC strives to establish and maintain an inclusive workplace and believes that the diversity of our workforce is an invaluable asset. VLRC is committed to following recruitment and selection practices based on merit, transparency, accessibility and inclusion ensuring that all candidates are given a fair opportunity for employment with VLRC.

To help ensure that this commitment is met, VLRC is committed to working with all candidates that require an accommodation. If you require an accommodation, please state in your cover letter what accommodation you require and VLRC will work with you to meet your needs at every stage of the recruitment and selection process.

Please note that the successful candidate will be required to pass a standard Criminal Record Check.

We thank all applicants for their interest in VLRC, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.