Self-Determination Lesson Plan
Unit 2: Student Toolbox
Lesson 7: Grades 3-12 - How Does My Vision Affect My Access to Information?

Unit Goal:

Student will develop a set (toolbox) of strategies to optimize visual functioning in a variety of settings.

Lesson objective(s):

Student is able to express vision strengths and limitations in relation to school, community, and home activities.

Teaching procedures/steps:

Step	Actions	Vocabulary
Anticipatory	Ask the student to think about things he needs to do in his home, at school, and in community settings (like the grocery store, at a park, etc.) that typically require vision. As the student names activities and/or objects, ask how easy or difficult it is to see or perform these tasks.	
Introduction	"Your vision may affect how you do things. We are going to complete a survey of visual tasks to figure out just how hard or easy visual tasks can be for you. Once we fill in this survey, we are going to work at finding out ways to help you become more independent—or do things without too much help from others."	
Stating the Goal	"After our lesson, you will have an idea of visual tasks you need to be able to access in home, school, and community settings. When you are finished with the Visual Tasks Survey, your score will help us determine which skills we can begin to work on to increase your self-confidence and independence in these settings."	access

Step	Actions	Vocabulary
Instruction	Introduce the "Visual Tasks Survey". Review the instructions, including the scoring rubric. 1. Allow student to complete this survey. 2. Total the score and find the range at the bottom of the survey. 3. If the score is between 22 and 88, discuss some tools and strategies that could be used with individual items to increase independence and participation. Make a list of these tools/strategies specific to each task. Future lessons will involve training for specific tools/strategies to increase access, independence, and self-confidence. 4. Review "Tools for Accessing Different Environments and Increasing Self-Sufficiency" to see which might apply to the student.	assistive technology
Instruction	If the score is between 22 and 88, discuss some tools and strategies that could be used with individual items to increase independence and participation. Make a list of these tools/strategies specific to each task. Future lessons will involve training for specific tools/strategies to increase access, independence, and self-confidence.	
Check for Understanding	"Let's look back over your survey. What areas (of access) do you feel are your strengths? What areas do you feel you need to work on to increase your access/independence?"	
Closure	"Today you took a close look at typical visual tasks that occur in school, at home, and in the community. In future lessons, we are going to be working on skills to help you access as many things on your own (independently) as possible, without depending on others."	

Rationale:

This lesson is designed to begin a conversation with the student about building access to visual tasks and independence. Future lessons will build upon how the student answered each individual task rating, and might include instruction on the tools/strategies that would help the student gain independence on specific tasks. Access skill instruction will differ, depending on many factors, such as the student's visual acuity, stamina, availability of assistive technology, etc. It is important to note that, as a student's ability to access tasks increases, his self-confidence and ability to represent himself as a person with a visual impairment who can compete with his peers increases as well.

Materials:

- Document: *Visual Tasks Survey*
- Document: *Tools for Accessing Different Environments and Increasing Self-Sufficiency*

- Calculator

Resources:

Looking to Learn (AFB Press) for teaching optical devices

TSBVI website for teaching specific assistive technology skills

ECC Essentials, Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum to Students with Visual Impairments, Allman C.B., and Lewis, S., AFB Press, 2014. Available from Amazon.