

# Vision Loss Simulation Tips: Serving Adults with Intellectual Disability

Note: For best results copy and paste the URLs given into your browser.

## 1. Vision Loss Simulator Kit Resources

- Zimmerman: <http://www.lowvisionsimulationkit.com/home>
- Fork in the Road: <https://www.lowvisionsimulators.com/product/full-set>
- Make your own: <http://www.sauerburger.org/dona/simulators.htm>
- APH Product: "Getting to Know You":  
[http://shop.aph.org/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Product\\_Getting%20To%20Know%20You:%20A%20Social%20Skills%20and%20Ability%20Awareness%20Curriculum\\_1-08052-00P\\_10001\\_11051](http://shop.aph.org/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Product_Getting%20To%20Know%20You:%20A%20Social%20Skills%20and%20Ability%20Awareness%20Curriculum_1-08052-00P_10001_11051)
- Goodlite: <https://www.good-lite.com/Details.cfm?ProdID=766>

## 2. Challenges to Using Simulators

- From Vision Aware: <https://www.visionaware.org/blog/visionaware-blog/new-research-blindness-simulation-activities-may-do-more-harm-than-good-1746/12>
- From National Federation for the Blind:  
<https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/fr/fr21/fr06ws09.htm>

## 3. Simulator use during assessment

- Craft a simulator of the individual's eye condition(s).
- Put the simulator on yourself and place yourself at the individual's eye level to view the activity/environment from his/her perspective.
- Invite caregivers to do the same as a simulated learning and sensitivity experience.
- Draw the caregiver's attention to the challenges: to see or complete certain tasks; to identify others by looking only; to maintain personal orientation in the room; etc.
- Manipulate/change the activity or environment with color contrast, lighting, etc. to view the hopeful benefits for the individual and to share these experiences with staff.

## Vision Loss Simulation Tips: (continued)

- Addressing all of the above you will be working to acquire “buy in” from the caregivers to consistently use with the individual the environmental recommendations/suggestions you provide.

### 4. Simulator use during training

- Craft multiple simulators of the individual’s eye condition(s).
- Invite staff to complete activities while wearing the simulators.
- Ask some members of the group to first take a turn being an observed of their colleagues under the simulators; and then switch.
- At the end of the activity ask caregivers to comment both on what they experienced under the simulation and what they observed others doing as they watched. What did they notice? What surprised them? Etc.

### 5. Sample Activities

- Eat a snack / Pour a drink
- Play a game
- Wash hands
- Write name on a name tag
- Complete a work task
- Pass specific items to another
- Read a sign
- Describe what is happening on TV
- Describe who has entered the room (without the person self-identifying)

### 6. Additional Vision Simulation Activity Resources

- <https://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/simulation-activities.html>
- <https://www.lowvisionsimulators.com/low-vision-simulation-activities>
- <http://www.tsbvi.edu/instructional-resources/1912-visual-impairment-what-is-it-like>
- <http://www.lowvisionsimulationkit.com/activities>

### 7. Online simulation resources to share with caregivers

- <http://www.focusonvisionandvisionloss.org/eye-conditions--simulations.html>