

Facilitating O&M Development

Dr. Bronwen Scott
O&M Specialist (COMS)
Developed for RIDBC Renwick Centre

Role of the O&M Specialist

- Develop conceptual understanding of the environment.
- Develop **purposeful movement** in home, school, and community.
- Develop safe and independent **OR** interdependent travel skills.
- Consult and collaborate with education and allied health professionals.

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Strategies in Early Childhood



- Strengths-based approach
- Coloured canes
- Naming canes
- Coaching families

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Strategies in Early Childhood

- Utilising a 'teaching cane'.



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Role of the Visiting Teacher and Education Assistant

- Reinforce the use of techniques taught by the O&M Specialist throughout the school day.



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O&M Goal	Arrival	Session 1	Morning Recess	Session 2	Lunch	Session 3	Departure
Implement independent travel within the classroom		XX will use trailing and body protection skills to move independently from her desk to the group area				XX will independently travel from their desk to collect their school bag.	
Increase her cane skills			XX will independently walk with her long cane from her classroom to the outside play area.	XX will practice ascending the stairs independently with her long cane as she travels to the library.			
Use landmarks and clues for navigation purposes	XX will identify a landmark that indicates his classroom.				XX will identify a landmark that indicates the lunch area.		

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Role of the Visiting Teacher and Education Assistant

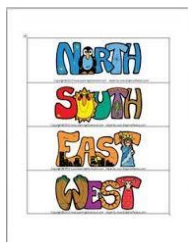
- Relating lessons in the core curriculum and ECC to travel experiences in the home, school, and community.

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Role of the Visiting Teacher and Education Assistant

- Building on **body, spatial,** and **environmental** concepts in the classroom setting



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Challenges

- **Time!!!**



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Challenges

- **Consistency**
 - Ensuring everyone working with/involved with the student is using consistent O&M techniques and language.

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Rules for O&M Success

- High expectations.
- Advocate for the right of the individual to travel as independently as possible.
- Routines-based approaches.
- Team-based approach – collaboration and joint ownership of O&M goals.
- What do we wish for this child when they reach adulthood?

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Professional Bodies

- Orientation and Mobility Association of Australasia (OMAA)
 - <https://omaaustralasia.com/>
- South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI)
 - <http://www.spevi.net/>

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