ICEVI

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Quality of Life!

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How can we, as service providers, support youths and young adults who are blind or visually impaired on their path to independence and well-being as well as social and vocational participation?
Independence

Social participation

Well-being
What does research tell us?

How can we help our students to achieve these goals?

What could possible intervention programs contain?
Empirical studies show possible problems caused by vision impairment

- Restrictions in Orientation and Mobility
- Restrictions in Activities of daily Living
- Limitations in Social Interaction
- Isolation
Possible Problems caused by vision impairment

But what about COPING with vision impairment or blindness??
The impact of a vision impairment is generally dependend on the onset and characteristics of the impairment as well as the currant situation.
Also age, personal history, physical and psychological status, family, friends, social networks, school, career education, work and life after work ... have an impact.
Research and intervention programs:

- Doll 1953
- Baumann 1973 and Davidow 1974
- Van Hasselt 1981
- Schindele 1982
- Hatlen 1994
- Strittmatter 1997
- Wagner 2002
- ...
What can be taught in school and at leisure time?

What is the expectation on the job market?
Expectations in school and on the job market!

Academic Skills

Soft Skills
But what is so very special about soft skills for people who are visually impaired or blind.
Soft skills

Emotional and social competence
Social and Emotional Competence

- Coping with the disability
- Adaptation and Adjustment as well as Self Determination
- Active Participation
Social competence is the functional ability of a human organism to be able to show and live personal independence and social responsibility.

Doll 1953
Social Competence is defined as the ability to cope with problems in social interaction situations. It encompasses skills in ADL, O&M, as well as techniques of assertiveness in and toward a sighted world.

Social skills are abilities and activities that have a positive outcome for a person. The consistent and adequate implementation of these competencies leads to a multidimensional concept „Social and Emotional Competence“ and therefore to an effective way of coping with life in general under the circumstance of a visual impairment.

Wagner 2002
Social and emotional Competence consists of behaviors that lead to an empowered and self-determined social and vocational participation into society.
Coping with the disability is the key component to acquire social and emotional competence!
1. Personal Management and Self Care

2. ADL and O&M

3. Career Education

4. Sociale Interaction und Leisure
A story to make you think!!
Who can support?

Personal and social networks
Parents and siblings
Friends
Consumers and Self Help Groups
Professionals in the field of vision impairment and blindness
What can help?

Received and collected information
Implement learned strategies

- According to situation and skill
- According to personal Well-Being and situation
Young adults tell us what helped them!

You have to know what you need in which situation

You have to learn to be assertive

You have to learn to be independent

You have to learn to accept help if needed

Don‘t minimize your problems on your disability

Use your other senses

...
Social and emotional competence is distinguished through the fact, that a person with a vision impairment utilizes the learned competences adequately and appropriately in relation to his or her own needs and capabilities.
Quality of life
Well-Being
Independence
and
Social Participation
will be possible!
Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

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