

# Illinois School for the Visually Impaired



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*Operated by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.  
Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.*

February, 2011



## **Don't miss this opportunity.**

**Please share with families of children aged 0-5.**

**Go to [www.isvi.net](http://www.isvi.net) for information and registration materials.**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent-Infant Opening Doors Institute for the Visually Impaired, sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services/Illinois School for the Visually Impaired and the Illinois State Board of Education, will be held on the ISVI campus Thursday, June 2 through Saturday, June 4, 2011. The Institute is free of charge, including meals and lodging. Travel stipends will be reimbursed.

The three main purposes of the Institute are as follows:

- 1) To provide parents with information and resources on issues relating to the development of young children with visual impairments.
- 2) To provide parents with opportunities to interact with other parents raising children with visual impairments.
- 3) To provide hands-on demonstrations of technology, low vision devices and adapted sporting activities available to the children as they become ready for school and beyond.

In order to adequately meet these objectives, it is strongly encouraged that both parents attend the Institute, or in cases where only one parent can attend, a second person who works with the child is encouraged to accompany the parent (i.e., grandparent, aunt/uncle, Developmental Therapist/Vision or Vision Teacher). Due to budget restraints, we will not have a program specifically designed for siblings. Families who cannot make other arrangements for siblings, may be put on a waiting list. If this applies to your situation, please contact Mary Sies at 217-479-4415.

The Institute will include daily group presentations on topics unique to the needs of the parents and child (Individual Educational Plan's/Individual Family Service Plan's, Low Vision, Academic Preparation, Parent/Family Needs, and others). There will also be instruction to parents through play groups and daily classroom activities.

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*The mission of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired is to serve as a statewide educational resource offering students with visual impairments quality services which will enable them to become personally productive and self-sufficient citizens.*

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Enclosed is a brochure describing the activities of Opening Doors and an application form. While efforts will be made to involve as many families as possible, the program capacity is limited. Therefore, we recommend applications should be made as soon as possible. All applications should be received by May 1, 2011.

If you have any questions pertaining to the application or the institute in general, don't hesitate to call. Completed applications or inquiries should be directed to:

Janet McGovern  
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Sincerely,

Janet McGovern

CC: Marybeth Lauderdale, Superintendent

