



www.ActiveLearningSpace.org

Resources on CVI and Active Learning

Families and educators often wonder if Dr. Lilli Nielsen's Active Learning approach can be used with learners with CVI (cortical visual impairment). While Dr. Nielsen's approach was not specifically designed for individuals with CVI, many materials and activities can be adapted to decrease visual clutter, make use of preferred colors, and provide optimal visual contrast.

Considerations Specific to Learners with CVI

- We're **not always working on vision goals** in all active learning environments. For example, Little Rooms typically make many, many items available at the same time, by suspending them all around a child. The focus in a Little Room is on motor and cognitive development, rather than vision, and it may be preferable to focus on vision when the child is not in a Little Room.
- **Know the CVI Range score of your student and the educational implications** when designing materials or planning activities. Knowing where the child is on the CVI Range will help you to know things like the appropriate number and spacing of visual targets, what distance is optimal, preferred visual field, preferred color, etc.
- While many children with CVI are drawn to lights, **the focus of Active Learning is on the active engagement and participation of the learner**. This means that simply stringing lights for the child to look at may be interesting to the child, but we can't consider that to be an Active Learning approach. Ask yourself what the child is learning.
- In many Active Learning environments there is **competing sensory input**, including sounds, smells, visual targets, maybe things that are hot/cold, wet/dry. For many individuals with CVI this type of competing stimulation may make it difficult for them to use their vision in an optimal way.
- **Latency** is a common characteristic for students with CVI and **learners should be allowed ample time to plan and execute a response**.

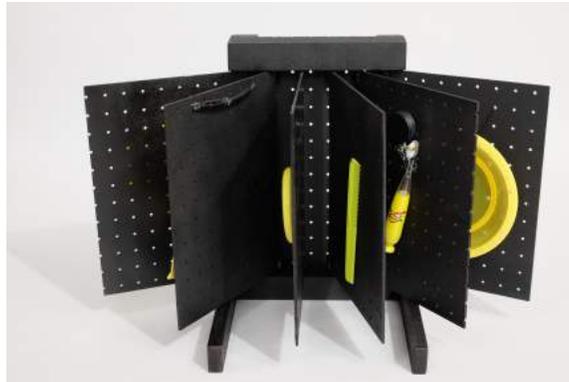
The Active Learning Space is collaboration between Perkins School for the Blind, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Penrickton Center for Blind Children.



CVI Strategies

<http://www.activelearningspace.org/implementation/cvi/cvi-strategies>

- *Create Your Own Pegboard Book*
- *CVI Den*
- *Comparative Thought Using Active Learning and Salient Feature Language*



Pegboard Book for Learners with CVI

What did Dr. Lilli Nielsen have to say about CVI?

<http://www.activelearningspace.org/implementation/cvi/cvi-active-learning>



Set up for student with CVI at Narbethong State Special School, Australia

Video Clips of Active Learners with CVI

<http://www.activelearningspace.org/implementation/cvi/cvi-videos>



All videos were created by Diane Sheline.

Webinar on Active Learning and CVI

<https://library.tsbvi.edu/Player/17609>