POSSIBLE Impact of Vision Loss on General Development
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Impact of vision loss on cognitive skills:

- Delay in cause and effect
- Basic concept-development – colors, numbers, and size
- Play skills often delayed
- Can have limited motivation or sense of accomplishment – difficulty making connections
- Child needs lots of repetition in order to learn skills
- May be limited imitation skills

Impact of vision loss on language skills:

- Words without concepts
- Lots of meaningless talking
- Miss-information gained from body language and facial expressions
- Limited sense of self v. others

Impact of vision loss on self-help skills:

- May be limited learning basic hygiene – brushing teeth, hair, eating skills, cup use, locating pacifier, bottle
- May be limited imitation for getting dressed – shoes, shirt, etc.
- May not be able to express needs – when to be picked up – putting arms up to be picked up from crib
- May not experience anticipation of someone approaching
- Afraid of messy tactile experiences

Impact of vision loss on social skills:

- Difficulty in knowing how to interact with others
- Doesn't know what social interaction looks like
- Is often more comfortable being alone
- Afraid to try or do something new
- Wants to stay in safe surroundings
- Lack of facial expressions
- Often doesn't understand what is acceptable behavior
- Lack of independence
- Does a lot of talking (especially self-talking)
- Moves slowly

Impact of vision loss on bonding:

- May make limited eye contact
- Doesn't smile right away
- Gains comfort from blanket/object rather than caregiver
- Caregiver can't just pick them up quickly or go towards them fast – need to explain, approach slowly so not to frighten them
- May not seek out affection/comfort – they turn inwards for comfort/stimulation
- Doesn't visually seek or follow caregiver

Impact of vision loss on motor skills:

- May be limited visual motivation
- Difficulty with motor plan
- May be limited visual reward
- Posture, gait, balance reactions, distal development may all be compromised
- May be limited orientation in space