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OPINION / LETTER

## *How to Serve Blind and Visually Impaired Children*

One of the greatest challenges is the proper diagnosis of conditions.

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“The Boy Who Learned to See—and What He Teaches Us About Vision” (Review, June 19) touches the tip of the iceberg when it comes to empowering the blind and visually impaired to achieve their potential. One of the greatest challenges facing organizations serving children with visual impairments is the proper diagnosis of conditions and the development of curricula that will expand their personal independence.

Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) is the No. 1 cause of pediatric visual impairments in the developed world, but it has gone undiagnosed, misdiagnosed and without appropriate follow-up care and education plans. At the same time, advances in research in visual neuroplasticity have shown that, with early diagnosis, appropriate functional vision assessment and individualized intervention, these children can make progress in how they access their visual world, in addition to their literacy, math and other areas of learning.

Blindness and visual impairments emanate from individual medical conditions. Prompt and effective diagnosis and response to CVI and other sight-related disorders promote specialized, individualized training that can enhance quality of life for the visually impaired.

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