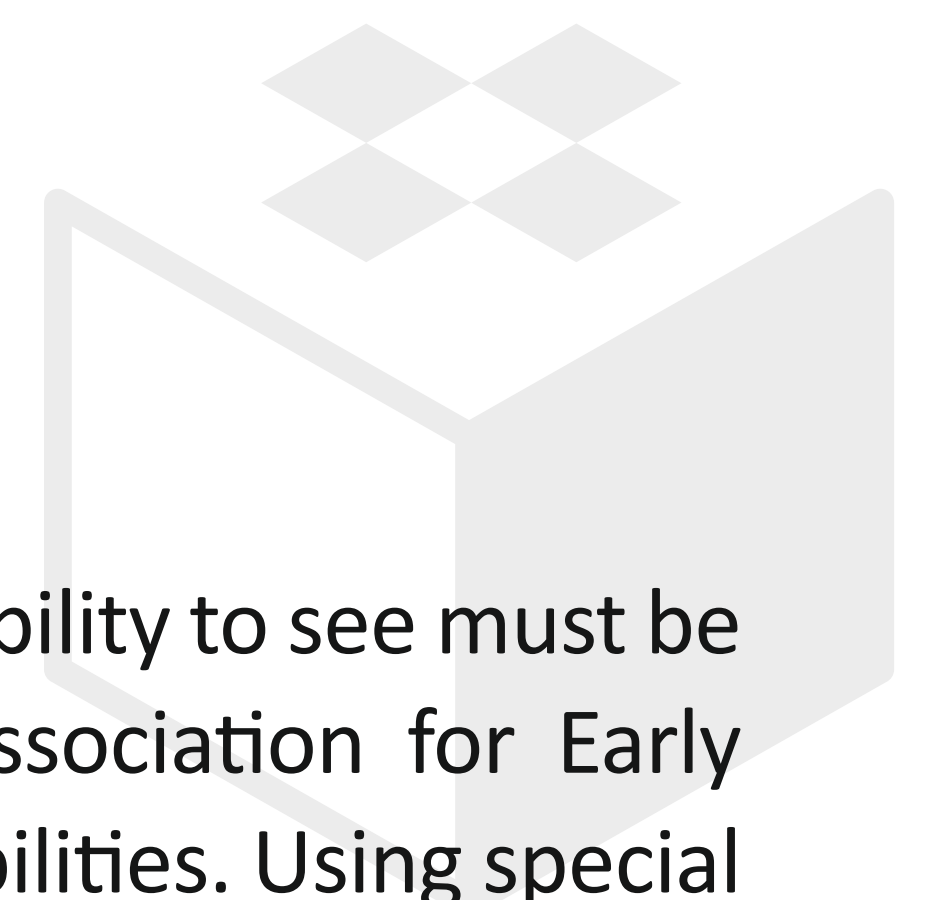




We teach children to look

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES AND COMPLEX NEEDS

80% of the information we receive from our environment comes through our eyesight. The ability to see must be actively developed from birth, especially in children with visual impairments. At the Association for Early Intervention, we specialize in supporting families with children with visual or combined disabilities. Using special professional support, we can determine the level of visual skills in even the youngest children, regardless of their abilities and level of verbal communication. We guide parents on how to use visual stimulation methods in everyday situations in the child's life. We provide parents with concrete procedures for developing eyesight.



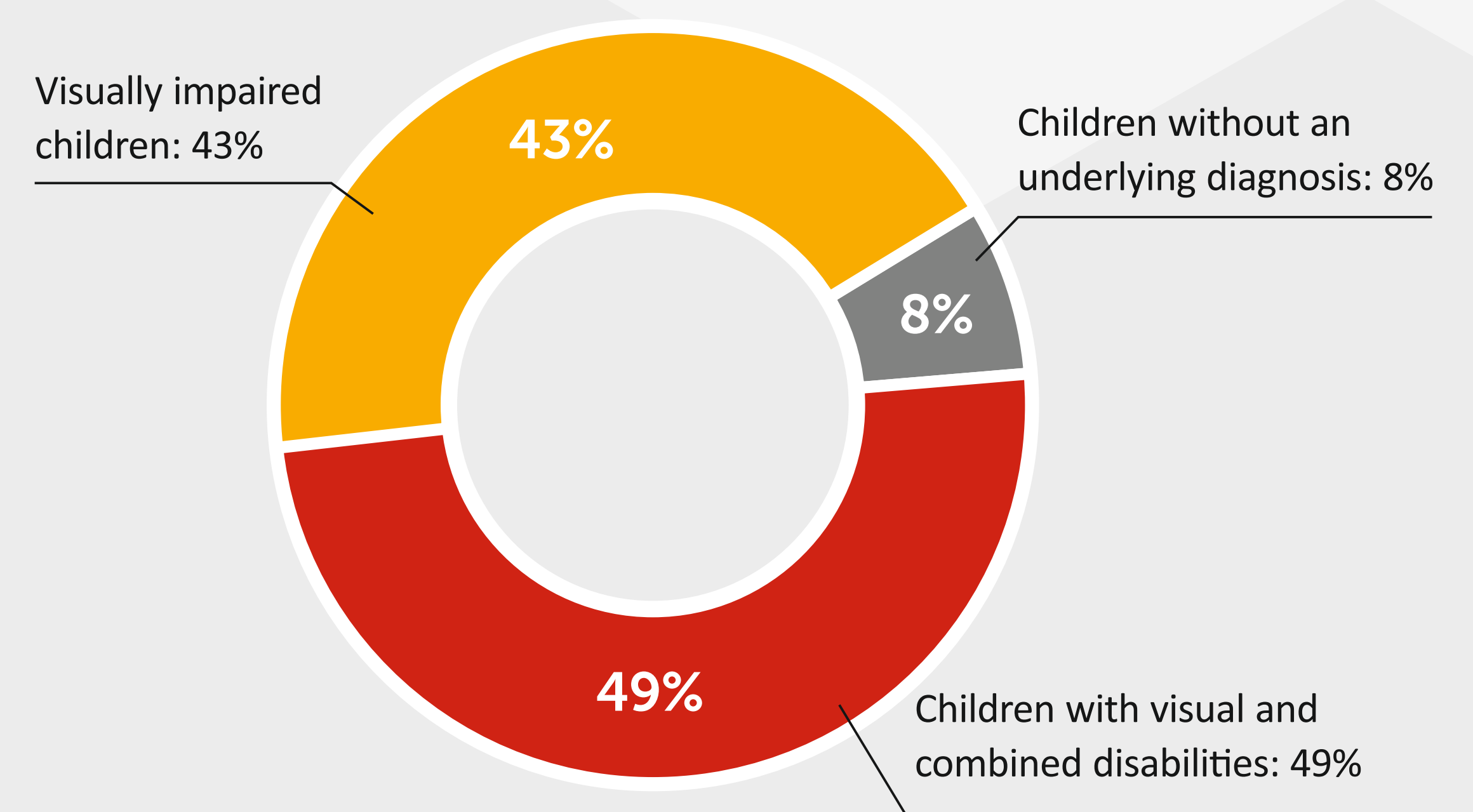
FUNCTIONAL VISION ASSESSMENT

At the beginning of our collaboration with the family, we are interested in how the child uses their sight in their natural environment, during play, in their surroundings, during everyday activities.

We determine the child's current level of visual perception through a functional vision assessment, which takes place using standardized tests and aids in a specially adapted room. Visual perception can be evaluated repeatedly, and changes can be monitored over a longer period of time.

Ophthalmological examination	Functional vision assessment
Performed by an ophthalmologist	Performed by a specialist for visual stimulation
Determines the diagnosis	Based both on the established diagnosis and on conversations with the parents and their observations of the child in their natural environment
Finds out the anatomical condition of the eye, changes in the physiology	Determines the extent of use of the child's preserved visual functions and abilities for their everyday life - play, communication, orientation, and independent movement in their surroundings, etc.
Therapy: correction of glasses, occlusion, drug therapy, surgery, etc.	Follow-up procedure: visual stimulation and visual training, appropriate environmental modification

Clients of the Association for Early Intervention in 2022



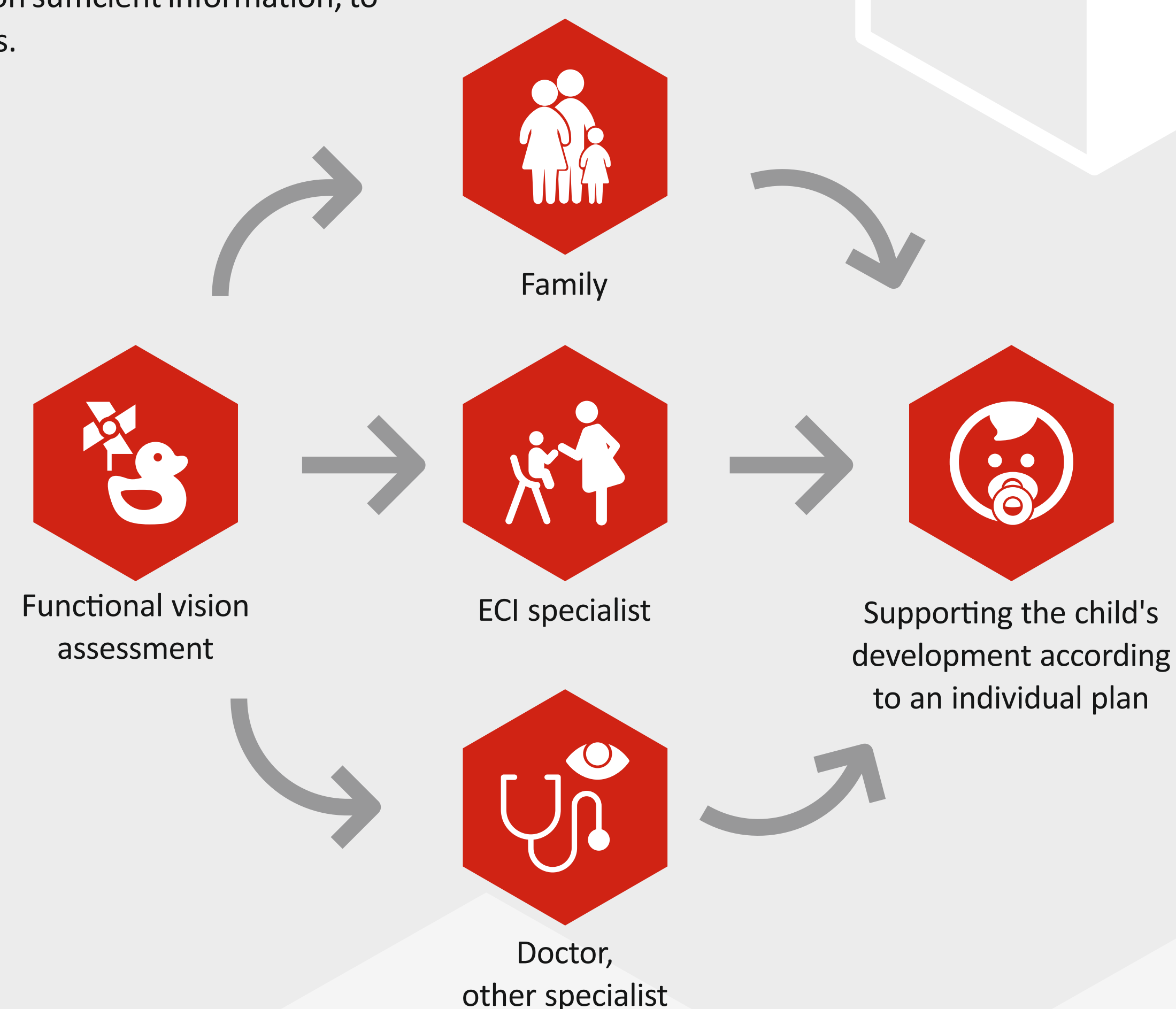
The information obtained is used by the family, the early childhood intervention specialist and other experts (e.g. ophthalmologists), and forms the basis for the individual planning of support and stimulation for the child. Parents gain an understanding of how they can support their child's eyesight with targeted play using contrasting, reflective, or lighting aids that the family can borrow. It is equally important to adapt the child's immediate environment to their visual needs, and to include vision support in their normal daily activities so that they can receive as many stimuli as possible from their environment. Stimulating and supporting vision is important even for children with residual vision, even if only a response to light is preserved. In addition to visual stimulation, parents also consult with the ECI specialist about supporting development of the child's other senses, their overall psychomotor development, and the use of compensatory strategies and tools.

COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT

Subsequently, ECI specialists work professionally with the family in the home environment. They have time to listen to the parents, and help them to find their way through the difficult life situation and to activate and use their own resources. The family is strengthened in its ability to make its own decisions based on sufficient information, to use the support of the local social, health and school networks.



Parents supporting the child's visual perception through play



When parents are able to turn to an experienced guide - ECI specialist - it can significantly help them cope with a difficult situation, prevent overburdening and crises in the family, and avoid placing the child in institutional care.



Testing preferential visual acuity in the youngest children