What is hemianopia?

- A condition causing blindness in one half of the visual field
- Affects visual fields in both eyes
- Can affect right or left side
- Is usually associated with strokes and hemipligia
- Visual acuity in remaining visual field may be normal

What are the effects of hemianopia?

- Children will not be aware of people or objects to the affected side
- Initially, a person with hemianopia may be inclined to bump into objects on their affected side when in an unfamiliar environment
- Hemianopia may cause difficulty in finding the beginning or end of a line of text when reading (depending on left or right field loss)
What can be done to help?

- Ensure correct positioning in classroom allowing a child to access board or teacher without having to turn their head
- When reading, mark materials so that the reader will know where to start or stop
- A blue line along the right margin of a page will help with right vision loss
- Once a child realises that he/she can only see to one side, they may be encouraged to physically turn to view objects
- Until this skill is established, consider placing objects or activities on their visual side e.g. food

Useful contacts:

Cambridgeshire Visual Impairment Team
Email: visual.impairment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01480 373434
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/visionsupport

LOOK (for families with visually impaired children)
Tel: 0121 428 5038
www.look-uk.org